BUSINESS/BI

Goy't readies sale between March and May of RPN 9, IBC 13

METRO/AI5

Former lover claims Plinky Recto needs 'psychiatric help'



BUSINESS/B3 Peso poised to break P51:\$1, closes at P52.425

WORLD/A8

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

DEFENSOR/A6

puff" secretary?

200 feared dead in landslides in Indon's **Central Java**

Defensor: From 'Spice Boy'

to 'Superboy' to 'Powerpuff'

Muñoz-Palma: Her words now enshrined in history

A HABITUAL DISSENTER WHO TOOK EVERY opportunity to challenge martial law. An "ingrate" who wore the epithet like a

badge of courage. These were only two of the accolades heaped on retired Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma by her colleagues and admirers during her

MUNOZ-PALMA/ A7

Thursday, January 5, 2006

4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 28

Cory-FVR-Erap

FROM "SPICE BOY" to "Superboy" to "Power-President Macapa-

gal-Arroyo is reportedly planning to move her fa-



WHAT, US WORRY? President Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro put in a cheerful appearance at the inauguration of Globe Asaitique Tower I in Mandaluyong City on Wednesday as the hot talk of the town (again!) turns to doomsday coup plots.

Palace belittles coup talk: We have undiminished faith in the Armed Forces

By Christine O. Avendaño, Tj Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

WITH HER FAITH IN THE MILItary "undiminished," President Macapagal-Arroyo downplayed renewed threats of a coup and rumors that former President Fidel Ramos was withdrawing support from her.

Coup rumors intensified this week with the revelation that Ramos met secretly on Jan. 2 with Senate President Franklin Drilon, who has called on Ms Arroyo to step down, and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III, a friend of detained former President Joseph Estrada's.

The former President's declaration of support for Ms Arroyo in July last year was regarded as a key factor that saved her administration from collapse amid mounting calls for her to step

But he rejected last month as a "monumental blunder" a propos-

al by the Consultative Commission, a body formed by Malacañang, to scrap the 2007 elec-

Ramos threatened to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo unless she declared by Jan. 1 that she was against the proposal.

"We have undiminished faith in the professional loyalty of the (Armed Forces) and the full capacity of the command to deal with these controversies," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye said tumors of a coup could be set aside, "as the discipline and morale of our troops is high and the chain of command,

His comments came after Air Force Col. Efren Daquil told reporters at a press conference Tuesday that he had been approached thrice by disgruntled military officers to join a coup.

Daquil said he had turned the PALACE/ A7



gal-Arroyo street protests and by impeachment, opposition forces are moving to get three former Presidents-Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada-to form an alliance that would compel the incumbent to step down. "We, in the United Opposition

(UNO), believe that a meeting of the three former Presidents will be a big help to the opposition," Estrada's former Agrarian Secretary Horacio Morales rold the In-QUIRER yesterday.

Morales said the proposal to have Ramos, Aquino and Estrada together was made during a meeting of the UNO-an umbrella of various opposition groups-in the middle of December.

Such a "Big 3" meeting could take place if Ramos and Aquino could pay Estrada a visit at his resthouse in Tanay, Rizal, where the ousted President is under house arrest on charges of plun-

Estrada is held under strict security regulations which bar him from holding political meetings and giving media interviews while in detention.

"Of course, one can't remove the rights of Presidents Ramos and Aquino to pay President Estrada a visit," Morales added.

within the military branch. Morales said it was a good Asked if her husband's exposé



AQUINO: Constitutional way



RAMOS: Monumental blunder



PAF colonel turns himself in day after blasting superiors

By Nikko Dizon

COL, EFREN DAQUIL YESTERday turned himself in a day after exposing alleged corruption in the Philippine Air Force amid a charge that he was being used "wittingly or unwittingly" by forces seeking the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

DEFINITELY NOT A REFORMIST.

As far as the estranged wife of

Air Force Col. Efren Daquil is con-

cerned, the public should know

the truth about this officer who

recently bared alleged anomalies

Daquil, a former deputy wing Standing only 5'4", commander of the elite PAF 710th Special Operations Wing based in Clark, Pampanga, arrived shortly before 11 a.m. at Villamor Air Base, the PAF headquarters. He was accompanied by his lawyer, Homobono Adaza. Daquil was mer by his immedi-

PAF COLONEL/ A6

showed that he was a reformist,

Emi Daquil could only shake her

"This is difficult because I am

washing our dirty linen in public,

but all I am after is the truth," a

with reporters yesterday.

dejected Emi said in an interview

An attractive and petite 50-

HE ABANDONED! A6

head to say, "No."

'He abandoned me and our children'

By Alcuin Papa

Daguil always

ONE OF THE SMALLEST MILITARY officers at 5'4". Efren Daquil always wanted to stand tall. A classmate in the Philippine Military Academy remembers Daquil as a gutsy cadet who probed the limits of what he

wants to stand tall

The 54-year-old Daquil was one who would "take life" the most-a term used in the academy for one who tested the threshold of PMA rules and traditions.

Cadets like him usually made the best field officers.

A boxer during his plebe days,

STANDING/ A6

RP cashing in on medical tourism boom

By Christian V. Esguerra

A NEW KIDNEY WOULD SAVE AN ARAB man's life so he went to the Philippines. Not as urgent, an American girl wanting bigger breasts arrived here, too. So did a Korean girl who wanted her eyes bigger and more expres-

Driven by different medical reasons, foreigners like them have been steadily coming to the country as part of the Philippine Medical Tourism Program started just two years

They come mainly because treatment is much cheaper here than in their respective countries like the United States, according to Undersecretary Jade del Mundo, the Department of Health's pointman on the new pro-

Visitors usually seek cosmetic procedures which are mainly available at the Belo Medical Center and Calayan Service Cen-

Both clinics fall under the "ambulatory centers" included in the program. They also include the American Eye Center, Asian Eye Institute, and RX Pinoy, a group of doctors in-RP CASHING IN/ AS

How a 'kaingin' farmer became 'Dr. Luis'



MEDICAL KITS, CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION and "new titles" as "doctors" are given 32 tribal leaders from all over the country who went through a three-week rigorous training program for community health workers conducted by the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc. in Paranaque.

By Jerry E. Esplanada

A FEW WEEKS AGO, A MANGYAN-Tadyawan slash-and-burn farmer returned to his village in the hinterlands of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro, from a sojourn in Manila.

Luis Ambo Midru, 35, was a new man. Speaking in Filipino, he told the INQUIRER: "I've become famous in [my village of] Manguyang because of this trip. And my having stayed in Manila for three long weeks will surely make me more popular." On top of all that, Midru brought home

with him a "special title."

"People now call me 'Dr. Luis,' which I think sounds good. Better than 'Luis, the kaingin farmer," he said, laughing.

Midru, along with 32 other tribal leaders from various parts of the country, had just hurdled a demanding three-week training program for community health workers, or "barefoot doctors."

They learned about first aid, health care, basic human anatomy and physiology, nutrition and hygiene, maternal and child care, common diseases and injuries, herbal medicine and reflexology, among

The training program is a project of the Poundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc. (Folpmi), a medical charity institution

Matro Manife Partly Clouds Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy **Partly Cloudy** Cloudy with Rains

Partly Cloudy **Cloudy with Rains** Cloudy with Rains Closely with Raths Closedy with Rains

12 killed in two road accidents in La Union

ing a woman and her five sons, were killed in two road accidents in northern Luzon, police said yesterday.

FORECAST: Mindenso will have cloudy skies with rainshowers and

Isolated thursdesstorms. There will be frequent rains over the eastern

and southern sections. Bloot and Eastern Visayas will have mostly

cloudy skies with rainshowers. The rust of the country will have partby cloudy to cloudy sides with Isolated resistancers.

COMPRED BY CYTEL BOWARD-TE FOR RESEARCH UNIONES SOURCE PAGASA

Nine of the fatalities were aboard a truck that overturned after it was hit head-on by a bigger truck, which swerved from the opposite lane after one of its tires blew out on a highway in Bauang town in La Union province on Tuesday, said Bauang police chief Superintendent Pedro Ubaldo.

Ubaldo said among those killed were a 44-year-old woman and her five sons, ages 7 to 25. Two other relatives and the truck driver also died, and three others were in critical condition at a hospital.

The family was returning to bus at the time.

AT LEAST 12 PEOPLE, INCLUD- Baueng, from nearby Naguilian town where they delivered a cargo of planters made from old tires, Ubaldo said.

One of the front tires of a 22wheel trailer-truck blew out, causing the driver to lose control and swerve into the opposite lane, hitting the smaller truck. The driver of the larger vehicle was injured, Ubaldo said.

Earlier in the day, a car slammed into a parked minibus on the same road, killing the driver, his mother and an aunt, and injured four other occupants, Ubaldo said.

He said the family was heading home after spending the Christmas and New Year's holidays in Cavite province, south of Manila.

No passengers were aboard the



SOGGY DEEDS

Records officer Marilou Ibana clips land title certificates on a clothestine after the Register of Deeds at the provincial capitol in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, was submerged in floodwaters on Dec. 19. She said at least 20,000 certificates were submerged.

GIs' motions stall arrest warrants

By Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY - THE ARREST OF FOUR American soldiers charged with raping a 22-yearold Filipino woman would not happen soon, at least not within the next two weeks, according to the judge who will try the case.

Judge Renato Dilag told the IN-QUIRER in a telephone interview yesterday he would first have to resolve six motions filed separately by the lawyers of Staff Sgr. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, and their Filipino driver, Timoteo Soriano Ja

These pleadings should first be resolved before we can issue a warrant of arrest," Dilag said.

Dilag, who presides over the Regional Trial Court Branch 73 here, said the motions, either seeking judicial determination of probable cause or a stay on the arrest of the five accused, are due for a first hearing on Friday.

He said the hearings would

quire him to adjust the 10-day timetable he is allowed by law to conduct an arraignment, he said. Arraignment is the formal judicial process where charges are read to the accused in open court after which they are asked to enter a plea of "guilty" or "not guilty."

Probable cause

Dilag said the arrest warrants should be issued before the arraignment. He said he would ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to serve the warrants if he found probable cause for ordering the soldiers' arrest.

He said he would need time to review the records of the case, which stemmed from the alleged take "a few days" and would re- Nov. 1, 2005, rape at the Subic and "a legal option" for the de-

Bay Freeport, and study the Dec. fense, the judge said.

27 Olongago City prosecutor's As to his not being authorized to 27 Olongapo City prosecutor's resolution charging the five men with rape with conspiracy.

Dilag said he would require the five accused and the complainant to appear before his court during the arraignment. The accused and the complainant have yet to face each other following the incident.

"I will see to it that all arguments should be in by Friday so that I can resolve this by the following week," he said.

City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni yesterday prepared a motion seeking custody of the soldiers, who are with the US Embassy.

Logically, what we need now is for the transfer of custody from the United States authorities to Philippine authorities. Our message here is that we really want to assert the authority of the Philippine government to ensure that justice will be given to the victim," Jalandoni said.

'Due process'

The motions filed by the accused were "part of due process"

try the case on the account of his being the judge of a special family court, Dilag said: "Republic Act 8369 or the law creating the family courts allows us [judges of special courts) to handle other cases."

Lawyer John Coluso, counsel for Silkwood and Duplantis, said it was one of his options to study if Dilag was indeed authorized to try the case.

"It would be to the detriment of everyone if in the end it is found out that he's not authorized. If that is so, his decision may not be legally binding," Coluso said.

Lawyer Prancisco Rodrigo, who represents Carpentier, said he would not contest Dilag's authority to handle the case because RA 8369 allows family court judges to handle cases other than those falling under their exclusive jurisdiction.

Lawyer Benjamin Formoso said he would study the matter. We'd like to focus on the merits of the case," he said.

Formeso maintained that his client, Smith, who has been tagged as the one who allegedly had sex

He said Smith told him on Thesday government particularly the DOJ that he was not scared to be arrested because he wanted to clear himself.

No exemption

The women's group Gabriela vesterday hailed an earlier statement by Dilag that his court would demand custody over the US servicemen but it voiced doubt he would have his way because of alleged pressure from the Department of Justice and the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission. "We are one with (Judge Di-

lag's) position that the Philippine's judicial process should prevail over the provisions of the (VFA) and that the four US Marines... should not be exempted from the process just because of the VFA," said Emmi de Jesus, Gabriela secretary general.

"But (we are keeping our fingers) crossed on whether he could actually assert the court's claim for physical custody over the suspects as the custody matter could even be considered wishful thinking in the light of pressures put on him and the judicial process by the Philippine

and the VFAComm," she added.

Still, Gabriela urged Dilag not to be affected by the pronouncements of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales and Zosimo Paredes, who heads the VFAComm.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez told reporters yesterday he supported Dilag's insistence on taking custody of the accused American soldiers as this would prove the Philippines' "manhood."

"By insisting on physical custody and by demanding for it, that will prove that we want to assert our sovereignty especially in criminal cases and maybe that will prove our manhood in the international community," he said.

"It must be stressed... that any disagreement regarding custody must still be resolved at the diplomatic level in order not to strain the friendly relations between the Philippines and the United States," Gonzalez said, quoting from a Jan. 3 memo he said he wrote Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on the With reports VFA's provisions. from Norman Bordadora and Leila B. Salaverria

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Garcia conviction caught in bureaucratic review

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FOR ALL THEIR VAUNTED swiftness, it turns out that the wheels of military justice are as exceedingly slow as their civilian counterparts. Last month's "guilty" verdict on the former military chief comptroller, retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, has been fed to the mills of a lengthy and laborious review process with no clear indication when it would be deemed final and executory.

After a year-long trial, a **GARCIA** military court pronounced Garcia guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer last Dec. 2 for undeclared wealth and being a permanent resident of the United States. It sentenced him to two years of hard labor and dishonorable dismissal.

As in all court-martial proceedings, the ruling has been forwarded to Armed Porces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga for approval. And this is where the next episode in the long tale of corruption in the military and the top brass' avowals to end it begins.

After being reviewed by the Staff Judge Advocate in the office of the Chief of Staff, the case moves on to the Board of Review, then to the Judge Advocate General's Office before a recommendation is submitted to Senga.

Senga can reverse or modify the decision before submitting it to the President, who, as Commander in Chief, can also reverse or modify it. There is no appeal to the civilian courts.

"We have to be very careful about this," Senga told reporters recently. "We have to be very sure about our recommendation to the President."

Malacañang has already hailed Garcia's conviction, with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye saying it "sends a strong signal that any misconduct in our military will not be countenanced."

Senga said he has not imposed any deadline for the military to complete its re-

"We will let you know in due time," he said.

Meanwhile, Garcia remains detained at the Philippine National Police

Custodial Center while undergoing trial by the Sandiganbayan for plunder and perjury. Plunder is considered a heinous offense pun-

ishable by death. Garcia, who is the highest military official convicted by a court-martial, has been de-

tained since November 2004. The court-martial handed down its verdict just a little over a year after the start of the trial, which stemmed from allegations García had illegally amassed wealth while he was deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (J-6) from 2001 to 2004.

The court upheld charges that Garcia did not declare in his statement of assets and habilities for 2002 and 2003 up to P12.3 million in savings deposted in the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc. (AFPSLAT) as well as six motor vehicles registered in his wife's name.

But the court acquitted him of charges he did not declare millions more in peso and dollar accounts in seven banks on grounds the prosecution had failed to prove Garcia owned them.

2 sequestered TV stations up for sale

THE GOVERNMENT WILL PRIVATIZE TWO as its lead advisor in the sale. sequestered television stations in the first half of the year, the government's Privatization and Management Office (PMO) said yesterday.

The sale of IBC-13 and RPN-9 relevision stations will take place separately between March and May, the PMO said in a statement, naming CLSA Exchange Capital Inc.

It did not say how much the government expects from the sale but the finance department has said that it has set a conservative target of PS00 million in revenue from

privatizing state assets this year. It raised about P8.3 billion from asset gales in 2005.

NBI bares confession in judge's slay

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Luige A. del Puerto

A SUSPECT IN THE AMBUSHslay of Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon has executed an extrajudicial confession "specifying their roles and naming other personalities involved" in the assassination, the National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday.

Ana Labao, the NBI special investigator with the Task Force Gingoyon, has however withheld the identity of the confessed suspect, saying they were still "validating" each of his and the other suspects' roles and participation in the crime.

NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring has disclosed that the agency would file murder charges against Rodolfo Cuer, the alleged gunman, Mark Datas, the driver of the getaway vehicle, Said Sulayman, the man who allegedly contracted the job and paid the suspects, Rodolfo Baclor, the alleged "spotter" and several other John Does.

Labao said the NBI has detained additional suspects, "who are still undergoing an elimination process."

No motive

"We are now conducting further investigation and follow-up operations to identify the mastermind behind the killing," said Ruel Lasala, the chief of the NBI National Capital Region.

Labao said the suspects were promised P150,000 for the job and were given an initial P50,000 as down payment. (See related story on Page A13)

Police officials meanwhile said they have yet to establish a motive or pinpoint the mastermind behind the killing.

In a teleconference, a police official said the interrogation of the nine who have been detained and the investigation have only succeeded in identifying the gunman and the other "ground players" but not the one who paid them to carry out the assassination.

involved, and we need to find out who [planned it]. As to the motive, these men are guns for hire," said Sr. Supt. Benjardi Mantele, head of the Cavite Police.

Playing billiards

Labao said witnesses have positively identified Cuer as the gunman who shot the Pasay judge at 12:45 p.m. last Dec. 31 while Gingoyon was walking toward his house in Soldiers Hills Village, Barangay Molino, Bacoor, Cavite from a nearby gym.

"Witnesses also saw the suspects playing billiards in the gym a few hours before the incident," Labao said in a phone interview.

According to the NBI investigation, at about 10 a.m. that day, the alleged "spotter" Baclor played billiards at the ground floor of the gym and then went up to the second floor at 11:30 a.m. to inquire about gym registration

Baclor then took a look at the logbook. On seeing Gingoyon's name, he asked the gym owner who the judge was.

When the gym owner greeted Gingoyon when he arrived for his

work-out, Baclot left the building to allegedly inform his accomplices of the judge's where-

Labao said Cuer and Datas were both seen playing billiards at the gym between 11:50 a.m. and 12:20 p.m.

Getaway bike

A blue Yamaha motorcycle, which witnesses have identified as the getaway vehicle, was seen parked at a distance.

When Gingoyon left the gym at 12:30 p.m., the suspects allegedly tailed him home.

Cuer, who was seen wearing a black jacket and shirt, denim shorts and a bull cap, allegedly shot the judge 150 meters away from his house, hitting the right lower portion of his body.

Labao said the suspect shot Gingoyon three more times after he fell down, hitting him on the chest and lower lip.

The gunman then escaped with the other suspect on the motorcycle. Four empty shells were recovered from the scene.

The judge was brought to the Molino Doctors' Hospital and Imus Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival, Labao said.

Labao said the suspects who were simultaneously arrested by a joint NBI and police team at their respective homes in Cavite yesterday morning were notorious for being involved in a string of robbery cases in Cavite.

"We have recovered some firearms which we have submitted for ballistics examination," the NBI agent said, adding that investigators were also able to recover a motorcycle helmet from the crime scene.

Documentation

As of press time, the Cavite police were still finalizing the documents needed to file the charges.

But the inquiry has of ended, other angles have not been disregarded, Mantele said.

"They (suspects) have not yet Of course, there was planning said who was the mastermind. Special police work would be needed for that," he said.

"We have not determined who paid them, but we'll get there," he

Mantele also said as of now, investigators have nothing to link a ranking police officer based in Camp Crame to the murder.

Sr. Supt. Manuel Barcena, the implicated officer, admitted his long-running disputes with Gingoyon on Tuesday but maintained that his feud with the judge was confined to the courtroom. He categorically denied any hand in the killing.

Mantele said the suspects had not mentioned Barcena's name during the interrogation.

Police spokesperson Chief Supr. Leopoldo Batoail said there is no need to restrict Barcena's movements.

The police take his word that he would make himself available in case he is summoned by invesrigators, Bataoil said.

The chief PNP (Director General Arturo Lomibao) has urged him to make himself available, and he himself has said he'd do just that," Bataoil said.



Gov't starts moving in on Luisita despite appeal

By Blanche S. Rivera

DESPITE A PENDING APPEAL FROM THE owners of Hacienda Luisita, the government has officially started the process of acquiring for distribution the 4,915-hectare sugar estate owned by the family of former President Corazon C. Aquino.

The Department of Agrarian Reform has issued notices of coverage to the Hacienda Luisita Inc., initiating the tedious process of distributing the Cojuangco estate to its farm workers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The government wants the acquisition and distribution of Luisita to be completed by May 31, according to a timetable set by Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman.

The HLI has petitioned the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council to reconsider the PARC's decision to revoke the estate's 16year-old stock distribution option scheme which made the farm workers part owners of the corporation managing the estate instead of acquiring the land for themselves.

The PARC decision, handed down last month, paved the way for the government's placing the estate under the coverage of the CARP and distributing the land to the farmers.

The DAR issued four notices of coverage, starting on Jan. 2, for each of the four titles covering the Hacienda Luisita. The notices,

signed by DAR Tarlac provincial agrarian reform officer Alfredo D. Reyes, were sent to the HLI office in Makati City on Jan. 3. Only the Supreme Court can stop the cov-

erage, although we may have to slow down if the PARC says so," said Narciso Nieto, the DAR undersecretary for operations. Nieto, however, expressed confidence that

the PARC, the highest governing body on agrarian reform, would act speedily to resolve the motion for reconsideration filed by HLI.

Pangandaman has also created six special teams comprising 39 people to oversee the acquisition and distribution of the Hacienda Luisita.

The special operations team headed by Niero will be in charge of documentation, information dissemination, ocular inspection of the lands, and the screening of farm worker beneficiaries and overall monitoring of the CARP coverage of Luisita.

been covered by a stock distribution scheme.

"A corporation is treated as a juridical person, so the HLI can retain only five hectares as owner of the land," Nieto said.

The HLI can choose which area it wants to retain by submitting a sketch of the area to the DAR provincial office within 30 days. If it fails to state its preference, the DAR would assign the area for retention.

Sandigan finds 4 guilty of graft

THE SANDIGANBAYAN FOURTH DIVISION yesterday sentenced four officials of the Tacloban City-based National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP) to nine years in prison after they were found guilty of graft for their involvement in a land acquisition anomaly in 1996.

Convicted were NMP executive director Renato B. Palomo, administrative officer Benjamin A. Umipig, chief accountant Margie C. Mabitad and budget officer Carmencita Fonatanilla-Payabyab.

The four NMP officials were also ordered to indemnify the government the amount of P8.91 million.

The court also issued arrest warrants for Glenn B. Solis and Teresita Jimenez-Trinidad, who acted as sellers of the property. The two remain at large.

In its 22-page decision, the anti-graft court ruled that while there is no direct evidence of Nieto said the HLI would retain five concerted action by the defendants, the prosehectares of the estate, the biggest area to have cution was able to prove conspiracy by connecting the independent actions of each accused.

The separate acts of all the accused in the present case contributed in the end result of defrauding the government," the court declared.

Records showed that the NMP Board of Trustees approved a plan for the school's expansion in 1995 and authorized Palomo to negotiate for the acquisition of land deemed suitable for the purpose.

Vizconde slay accessory won't leave prison yet

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE FORMER POLICEMAN CONVICTED AS accessory in the Vizconde massacre is willing to stay behind bars to press his innocence even though he could be free as, technically, he has already served his sentence.

Gerardo Biong, through lawyer Ricardo Valmonte, filed a motion contesting a Court of Appeals' decision last Dec. 15 which in effect reduced his jail term but upheld a lower court's verdict finding him guilty of tampering with the evidence in the 1991 rape with homicide case.

The CA ruling reduced Biong's original sentence of 11 years to 12 years to an indeterminate jail term from six years to 12 years. Biong had been in jail for 10 years, according to Valmonte, and would qualify to be set free already.

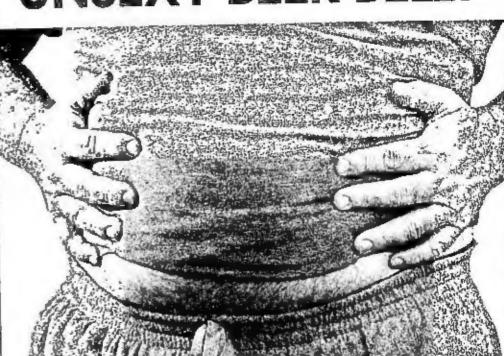
But Biong wants to press for an acquittal and would not leave prison because that would be tantamount to accepting the CA's ruling that he was an accessory in the killing of Estrellita Vizconde and her daughtets Carmela and Jennifer, Valmonte said. Carmela was raped before being killed.

Bakit siya aatras sa laban, hindi naman siya ang gumawa? Ayaw naming lumaya, gusto naming baligtarin ang decision. (Why should he back off from the fight when he is innocent? We don't want to be free, we want the decision reversed.) That's the price we pay," Valmonte told reporters yesterday when asked why he had not acted for the release of his client in light of the ruling:

The CA ruling also upheld the guilty verdict on principals Hubert Webb, Antonio "Tony Boy" Lejano, Michael Gatchalian, Hospicio "Pyke" Pernandez, Peter Estrada and Miguel "Ging" Rodriguez.

In his motion for reconsideration, Biong sought to be acquitted, saying there was insufficient evidence to support the claim that he had gone to the Vizconde residence to clean up the blood upon Webb's orders.

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HAWAII-ILOCOS CENTENNIAL

Hawail Gov, Linda Lingle is met at the airport by flocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson upon her arrival Tuesday night for an eight-day goodwill visit. Her visit kicks off the 2006 activities commemorating the centennial of the arrival of Filipino migrant workers, mostly llocanos, in Hawaii in 1906. ROGER HARGALLO



P45-M grants for forest conservation

By Blanche S. Rivera

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WOULD provide some P45 million in grants this year to finance small forest conservation projects all over the country.

The Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PTFCF) has chosen 11 non-government organizations that would receive a total of P5 million in grants for forest protection and restoration activities.

The PTFCF would launch the call for the second batch of project proposals in March. The 2006 grants cycle has a budget of up to

na said in a statement.

The forest conservation efforts were initiated by the NGOs after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources cancelled more than 200 community-based forest management agreements due to their failure to comply with the terms of the accord.

The DENR, which has been reviewing more than 5,000 forest plans and agreements, cancelled more CBFMAs than commercial and industrial contracts for forest utilization.

Originally intended in 1995 to allow local communities and small stakeholders to bene-

P40 million, executive director Maria Paz Lu- fit from the forest while taking care of it, the model of community-based forest management agreement has yielded "spotty results," the PTFCF admitted.

Luna, however, said the absence of strong and sustained outside support and capacity enhancement has made forest conservation more of a burden to the poor forest dwellers.

The Foundation hopes that in the course of its grantmaking, this expectation placed on poor communities for forest conservation be a burden and privilege shared by society as a whole," Luna said.

Coal-free Negros soon to be powered solely by 'clean' fuel

By Blanche S. Rivera

ONCE KNOWN AS THE LAND run by sugar barons, Negros Occidental may soon be known as the land that nature power runs.

The province is being eyed as Southeast Asia's first-ever community to be fully powered by renewable energy, according to international environmental activist group Greenpeace.

Greenpeace international energy campaigner Athena Ronquillo-Ballesteros said the local government's commitment to using sustainable renewable energy as source of power in the province had been hailed in many Asian

Recognized as one of the few places in the Philippines with a renewable energy policy, Negros Occidental is the first community in Southeast Asia to reject the entry of coal-fired power plants.

Political will

"Negros has demonstrated that communities can take the renewable energy route and challenge the will of the coal plant industry, organizations that fund them like the Japan International Bank for Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank, and countries like Australia which fuel their dependence on coal," Ballesteros said in

But Negros Occidental cannot realize its potential as the model province without the backing of the national government and even international funding insti-

"Leadership and political will from national governments and international financial institutions are necessary to complete a process that was started over three

years ago," Ballesteros said.

Challenge to lenders

Without their commitment, communities all over Southeast Asla will continue to suffer the effects of coal and fossil fuel dependency," she said.

Greenpeace has been urging the ADB and JBIC to shift their lending commitments toward clean energy and channel 10 percent of their loans to renewable energy projects by 2010 and 20 percent by 2020.

"Institutions like the JBIC and the ADB who bankroll climate change should see the Negros experience as an opportunity to change course immediately."

Wind, solar power

Fighting against multinationals, Negros Occidental became the first ever community in the Philippines and Asia in 2002 to block the establishment and operation of a coal power plant.

It has since committed to becoming the first community in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia to be powered 100% by renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, geothermal and modem biomass.

Threat of climate change

A recent report by an Asian en-ergy research group concluded that the Philippines and Asia are facing the likelihood of devastating social and economic disruptions if climate change in the region is not addressed immediate-

"The people of the Philippines and Asia require leadership if we are to avert future disasters," Ballesteros said. "The world urgently needs an energy policy that reflects the reality of climate

Solon eyes economic zone in Surigao Sur regional and national development," he said. Zone and Pree Port in the municipalities of

By Philip C. Tubeza

DEL SUR MAY ZOOM SURIGAO its way to prosperity and out of the list of the country's 20 poorest provinces if a proposal to turn large chunk of it into a special economic zone succeeds, according to the province's lone

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay said he has filed House Bill 4961, which seeks to establish the Surigao del Sur Special Economic provinces, but also concomitantly contribute to

Carrsacal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen and

Pichay said the province's location, rich natural resources, and human capital with varying skills and trades, highly qualify it as an economic zone.

"The proposed Surigao del Sur Economic Zone will not only contribute to the development of one of the nation's 20 poorest

"The capital, technological, and knowledge spillovers of the proposed Surigao dei Sur Economic Zone will filter throughout the country, thereby helping attain the government's agenda of economic dynamism and competitiveness," he added.

A special economic zone would attract investors by allowing them to import capital equipment and raw materials free of duties, taxes and other import restrictions.



Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD 3RD Fir. PDEA Bldg., NIA Rd., East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

TRIBUTE

THE HONORABLE SENATOR ROBERT Z. BARBERS

The Dangerous Drugs Board pays tribute to the late Senator Robert Z. Barbers, and is sincerely grateful for his meritorious contributions in the field of drug abuse prevention and control, for his outstanding efforts and initiatives to help curb the growing seriousness of the drug problem in the country and for his unstinted support and assistance to various programs and activities of the Agency.

The Board expresses its heartfelt and deepest condolences to his bereaved family, relatives and friends.

May his soul rest in peace.

Sr. Undersecretary DIONISIO R. SANTIAGO **Executive Director**

ANGELO T. REYES

Chairman Dangerous Drugs Board

Retired justice goes to **PCGG**

PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo pulled out of retirement a justice of the Sandiganbayan and recycled an Estrada appointee to fill up empty seats in the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Department of Finance. **Executive Secretary**

Eduardo Ermita yesterday announced the appointment of former Sandiganbayan Justice Narciso Nario as PCGG Commissioner in lieu of Alvin Dans and Gaudencio Mendoza Jr. as Finance Undersecretary replacing Emmanuel Bonoan, who resigned last month due to personal

Nario was a member of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division. He will replace Dans, who had been appointed to the PCVGG only in July last year Ermita did not say why he was being replaced,

Mendoza was executive secretary for legal affairs in the Estrada admin-Istration. He was one of six officials named in the lmpeachment complaint against Estrada as having been given numerous high-ranking posi-tions in violation of Constitutional provision barring the holding of multiple positions in government. Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Corrections



PRC CHAIR Jaime A. Dilag



JUDGE Renato Dilag

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a photo (left) that appeared on Page A4 is that of Philippine Racing Commission Chair Jaime A. Dilag-not Olongapo Judge Renato Dilag. At right is the photo of Judge Dilag.

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the caption of a front-page photo misstated that Tadeo Palma is the brother of the late Justice Cecilia Munoz-Palma. He is her son.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makad City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail

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number is 897-8808 Local 342.

How a 'kaingin' farmer became 'Dr. Luis'

From page Al

based in Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City.

More than 80 tribal leaders had earlier taken part in the program at the Our Lady of Peace Hospital, which is part of the Folpmi complex.

Unforgettable

Midru said he would never forget the program's closing rites, where he stood "in awe" as a medical kit, along with his certificate of completion, was handed to him by Folpmi officers.

Each kit contains, among other items, a box of assorted medicines, a stethoscope, a blood pressure monitor, a basic surgical set, forceps, scissors and gloves.

Timoteo Suroday, another Mangyan trainee, said he gained "full understanding" of what being a barefoot doctor meant, and his responsibilities."

Field personnel of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples say most, if not all, members of the Mangyan tribe live below 🕏 the poverty line.

With very little, if not nil, medical services from the government, many villagers are just left to die in the mountains. And a number of tribal members have been content to sit back and wait for miracles to happen.

"Not anymore. We can't just wait forever for outside help," Suroday said.

Midru aired a similar view. He said members of ethnic groups should help the government solve some of the basic problems confronting us, like hunger and illiteracy."

"I think that in our own little way, we're in a position to do just that," he said.

Midru said he returned to Manguyang with "not only a new sense of [himself] and what [he could] accomplish but also a deeper understanding of other indigenous communities."

Christy Havana, a Manobo from Agusan del Sur, acknowledged that she and the other program graduates could not change things in their communities overnight.

"But the training has prepared us for the challenges ahead," she said.

Heartwarming

Feedback from the barefoot doctors' communities has been "very encouraging, really heartwarming," said Sr. Eva Fidela Maamo, president of Folpmi and, according to the staff, its "guiding light."

A member of the local commu-



nity of St. Paul of Chartres, Maamo said "many lives" in indigenous communities nationwide had been saved because of the barefoot doctors.

"More miracles are likely to happen in other areas hosting minority groups. But we should never forget that saving lives is really in the hands of God. We're only His instruments," Maamo, a medical surgeon, told the In-

In 1992, Maamo received the Mother Teresa Award, which was established in 1983 by the Alfonso Yuchengco Foundation and the Manila Jaycees.

Named after the Albanianborn founder of the Missionaries of Charity and 1979 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and candidate for sainthood, the award is given to outstanding individuals who ing the poor, the destitute and the their batch of trainees. abandoned.

In 1997, Maamo received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership, and in 2003, the Outstanding Filipino Award for Community Service of the Philippine Jaycees and Insuhar Life.

Making the difference

Maamo takes pride not only in Folpmi's success but also in its vision ("the uplift of less fortunate individuals, families and communities for sustainable human development") and mission ("to actualize the teachings of God through charity work").

She said the foundation had taken the road less traveled—and "that's what made the difference."

Maamo reported that the first three batches of barefoot doctors had "acrually made a difference in the lives of tribal folk" because they passed on what they had learned to their respective com-

Thirty tribal leaders took part in the January 2005 pilot training program, another 30 in July, and 25 in October.

After completing the training, barangay health worker Juliet Pinkihan, 49, immediately returned to her hometown of Lagawe, Ifugao, brimming with ideas and the desire to make a difference in other people's

At 18, Mariano Perez and Donhave dedicated their lives to serv- na Garcia were the youngest in

Perez, a Talaandig from La Paz, Agusan del Sur, saw the program as "an opportunity to gain experience and expand my knowledge of other ethnic

Garcia, a Mangyan-Buhid, is Mindoro.

Access to health care

In the 1970s, "most indigenous communities had very limited access to health care," Maamo ob-

She added: "Women and children were the most vulnerable groups. Morbidity and mortality

rates from childbirth and common infectious diseases were high."

At that time, she had started working in a mission and lived with the T'boli of Lake Sebu in Surallah, South Cotabato.

She pioneered the training of natives belonging to seven tribal groups-including the Blaan, Ubo, Manobo and Maguindanao-as health workers, "parateachers" and community organizers.

Within a year, Maamo said, the incidence of infectious diseases in the Lake Sebu area had dropped by at least one-third.

In 1984, Folpmi started as a medical mission that Maamo headed with the backing of volunteer medical practitioners and civic groups.

From the medical mission, the foundation expanded its services, helping urban poor communities and indigenous villages in Luzon and Mindanao.

The foundation, which is chaired by Fr. James Reuter, S.J., reflects some of the enduring Filipino ideals and values, like self-sacrifice, commitment another native of Gloria, Oriental to service, and the bayanihan

The other Folpmi officials are lawyer Antonio Bernas, vice president; Dr. Raquel Malimas, secretary; Suzanne Yuchengco-Santos, treasurer; lawyer Benita Santos, legal officer; Manolito Gonzales, auditor; and Bienvenida Bernas, Mariano Salazar and Ambassador Oscar Villadolid,



when the respectment of the way be a property and

Peace Mission, Inc., Sister Eva Fidela Maamo is the moving force behind the "barefoot doctors" program in areas where there are no government health workers.

members.

Partners

Folpmi and an Aeta community displaced by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions in 1991 jointly run the Aeta Resettlement and Rehabilitation Center in Sitio Gala, Baran-Sacatihan-Aningway, in Subic, Zambales.

The center's development plan "covers all aspects and core competencies of the foundation in nealth, education, livelihood, community organization and spiritual and value formation," seid Maamo.

"Today," she said, "the Aeta and Folpmi are parmers in helping shape the indigenous community's destiny for a better quality of life and realize our vision of an empowered and self-sustained Aeta community."

Maamo said young Aera villagers Carmela Santos, 17, and Carlota Romanban, 19-who both took part in the October training program-would play important roles in attaining that Aside from the 100-bed Our

Lady of Peace Hospital, which the foundation calls "a hospital for the poor," Folpmi operates a care center for the sexually

It also provides feeding and day care services to depressed areas in Manila, Navotas, Cavite and Zambales, and conducts

leadership training seminars and arts workshops.

Folpmi has likewise put up a. scholarship program (for high school and college students)-in, nine Metro Manila squatter colonies and selected tribal communities.

Continuing concerns

According to Maamo, the tribal folk's problems will remain "a major concern" of the foundation, along with the regular? monitoring of the barefoot doctors and their "lifesaving miracles."

It's a work in progress, she, said.

Added a member of the Polpmi, staff: "The foundation has tilled the soil and planted the seeds," With God's help, the seeds will grow and start bearing rich. fruits.

"Other living things" have benefited from the training program, Maamo said.

She quoted an Aeta trainee from Subic as saying that thanks: to the "very effective" training, he was able to save a patient on whom a tree trunk had fallen.

The trainee had administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, which he learned at the program,

"I said, 'Who was your pa-l tient?' He said, 'Sister, a monkey.' It turned out to be his father's pet is for the last five years," Mnamo

RP cashing in on medical tourism boom

From page Al

volved in medical tourism.

Del Mundo said Asian patients, mostly women between 20 and 60, usually go for blepharoplasty to widen the contours of their normally almond eyes. The procedure costs as much as \$10,000 (roughly P520,000) in South Korea and Japan, but only around P150,000 in the Philippines.

Liposuction

Also a hit among foreigners are liposuction, nose and face lift, and lasik surgery, a high-end corrective procedure on the cornea. Lasik is only around P60,000, more than half its normal cost abroad, according to Dei Mun-

Life-threatening cases such as coronary artery bypass graft, and kidney and bone marrow transplants are also aplenty, he said.

Heart bypass is worth around PS00,000 locally or half the price abroad. Kidney transplant is also much cheaper here at P3 million. Elsewhere, the complicated procedure costs about P7 million, Del Mundo said.

"It's a very promising industry," he told the Inquiren in an interview yesterday.

"It will catapult us to the world stage of medical tourism and it will be a dollar earner. At the same time, it will help stem the tide of brain drain in the Philippines."

Del Mundo predicted that the country would catch up with neighboring countries in the multibillion-dollar global medical tourism industry over the next three

years. Even if India, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore started in the late 1990s, it would not be too difficult for the Philippines to bridge the gap, he said. The four countries are the more dominant in Asia in the field of medical tourism.

Compassion, competence

It's just a matter of capitalizing on the country's natural advantages, particularly the compassion and competence of Filipino

health professionals, the health official said, adding that command of the English language is also a plus. The quality of our doctors and health

qualities not found in neighboring coun-So far, Del Mundo said the medical tourism program has had tourists from South Korea, Japan, and China in Asia, to as far as the United States, and Germany, France, and the .

professionals is very high," he said. "We are

very caring and compassionate. We have

Kidney donor

Netherlands in Europe.

Since available kidneys are scarce in the country, foreign patients are asked to "bring your own kidney donor" who is usually a relative or a close friend, according to the undersecretary.

"We don't want Filipinos to be sacrificed in favor of medical tourism," he said.

For serious medical cases, foreigners can choose from five government and five private hospitals being marketed as centers for the lo-

cal medical tourism program. They are Capitol Medical Center, St. Lukes

Medical Center, Asian Hospital, Medical City, Makati Medical Center, Lung Center, Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney Institute, Philippine Children's Medical Center, and East Avenue Medical Center.

Global retirement village

Besides the international medical tourism industry, the government is also targeting the global "retirement village," Del Mundo said.

By 2010 to 2020, between 500,000 and 3 million Filipino-American retirees are expected to settle in the Philippines and elsewhere. "There will be a tsunami of Filipino-American retirees and we should be prepared for that," he said.

Roll call of tribal doctors

of the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc. are: Dominya Pinkihan and Teresita Bulligan (Ifugao); Jose Angeles and Wilfredo Jamilla Jr. (Mangyan-Tadyawan, Oriental Mindoro); Sheryl Esmani and Salvador Lampinigan (Badjao, Leyte); Chareza Padecio (Manobo, Leyte); Merlyn Buklas and Elpidio (Mamanwa, Calinawan Leyte); Rafael Enolpe, Joenita Apog, Corazon Dohinod, Marites Bayona and Jonebert Lascapon (Subanen, Zamboanga Sibugay); Romelyn Martinez and Jean Rose Plana (Manobo, Agusan del Sur); Christony Amade (Talaandig, Agusan del Sur); Amalia Garciano (Talaandig, Bukidnon); Rommel Fuentes

THE OTHER GRADUATES OF and Junnie Tawide Jr. (Banthe October training program wa-on, Agusan del Sur); Evelia Comendador, Pinda Sumbongan, Evelyn Alahay, Lilibeth Mon-ay and Bevelyn Tinoy (Higao-non of Bukid-

Among the other ethnic groups that responded to Sr. Eva Fidela Maamo's "challenge to serve" by sending representatives to the training program were the Bontok, Isneg, Isinai, Ivatan, Ibanag, Itawe, Remontado, Dumagat, Mangyan-Hanunuo,

Taubuid, Mangyan-Iraya, Tagbanua, Palaw'an, Agta, Agta-Ta-Agta-Cimaron, bangnon, Marig-Salog, Samal-Bangingi, Ummayamon, Tiruray, Aromanen, Ilianen-Keriteken, Pulangiyen, Kongking, Yakan, T'boli and Tagakaolo.



PAF colonel turns himself in day after blasting superiors

From page A1

ate superior, Col. Oscar Calingasan, commander of the Headquarters Support Group, and Col. Arthur Abadilla, the Air Force provost marshall.

Daquil told reporters he did not regret publicly revealing that Li Air Force officers were "illegally" receiving up to P45,000 in monthly allowances and asking the PAP commanding general, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, to explain how. the P30 million in savings from Daquil's stint as PAF personnel office chief in 2004 was spent.

"The timing of his expose is suspect," said Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, PAP spokesperson. "We have to dig deeper into this."

Padilla said that it was strange that Daquil waited for a year before he came out with his exposé. He said there were rumors about destabilization in the military, · mainly through text messages.

He said there also were attempts by rebellious military elements to recruit from the Tactical Operations Group and the 15th Strike Wing.

"Recruiting from the Air Porce is strategic because we have enough firepower and we have the air power. These are components that not even a big army on land could match," Padilla said.

"Colonel Daquil could have "been used wittingly or unwittingby by people behind destabilization moves," Padilla said.

Wayward like a bullet

Padilla described Daquil as "one of the promising officers in the Air Force" as well as an officer 'who "went wayward like a bullet" with his supposed exposé.

He said Daquil could possibly be charged with violations of the Articles of War for breaking the chain of command and bringing his ' grievances directly to the media.

In a news conference, Padilla said that Daquil could be charged with violation of Article 96 (displaying conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman) and 197 (conduct prejudicial to good corder and military discipline).

"We are very grateful that he went back to our control in the Air Force," Padilla said.

Padilla said that the Air Force provost marshall's office would conduct a preliminary investigation, and based on the results, would determine if Daquil would face a court-martial.



MAN IN THE MIDDLE: Coi. Efren Daquil between lawyer Homobono Adaza and Col. Oscar Calingasan, Group Commander of the Air Force, turns himself in at headquarters.



HEADLINER, Son. Rodolfo Biazon cites this paper's banner story on Wednesday on the Daquil exposé. ESYLSON

there might be one. We are asking him to stay within the PAF headquarter's premises," Padilla said.

Padilla also said that personal issues kept Daquil from the promotion that he wanted, suggesting that these might have prompted him to go to the media with his allegations.

He said that Daquil had filed for

Operations Wing in Mactan.

"Suffice to say, it is an issue that borders on some aspects of the AFP code of ethics," he said.

Later, Padilla said that Daquil—a married man and a father of three grown children-had admitted to having a "girlfriend." (See story above.)

terminal leave after he declined ments which he said would prove "He is currently under no restriction offered to him by the that the P30 million in savings

nel chief had been turned over to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The money was subsequently used to purchase athletic wear for the Air Force soldiers. The bidding and awarding were conduct-

Padilla also showed docu- hands a single cent after the P30 million was transferred through check ... By talking before you now,

to prove him wrong," Padilla said.

According to the procurement form, the P30 million in savings was used to purchase the follow-ing: 10,186 pieces of rubber shoes at P900 each for P9,167,400; 19,652 short pants at P200 each for P3,930,400; 19,652 bags at P500 each for P9,826,000; 4,318 shirts with collar for officers at P200 each for P863,600; and 34,988 round neck shirts for enlisted men at P200 for P6,997,600.

Samples of these items, owned by an enlisted soldier, were shown by Padilla to reporters.

As for the allowances, Padilla said that these were not discretionary funds but were intended for operational support, such as purchase of office supplies.

They come under a strict rule on how they should be used. The allowances are part of the budget and are properly liquidated," he said, adding that Daquil could even be liable if he kept his allowance in a bank, as he said.

Explanation unsatisfactory

"We don't know how his office managed to operate without this," Padilla added.

In an interview over ANC television, Daquil said he was not satisfied with Padilla's explanation. They have to give me a copy of their papers and I have to examine it," he said.

"It is easy to say that the money was spent for that purpose but if you ask the soldiers, they have not received their combat clothing allowances that they should have," he added.

Daquil also said he was "puzzled by the procedures" presented by Padilla during his news conference, particularly about the money being spent on athletic

"As far as I know, the DBM policy says you cannot use personnel services funds (for) any other (purpose)," he said.

Daquil also said that he only went public with his allegations now because "I never heard anything else despite my questions to him," referring to Col. Alexander Flores of the PAF lo-

Daquil said that he could file charges with the Office of the Ombudsman if he found the PAF explanation unsatisfacto-

Senate calls for credible probe Philip C. Tubesa and Norman

open to any investigation. We want Arroyo should order a "transparent and credible investigation" of

Daquil's allegations. Biazon said Daquil was "raising questions in the minds of the public, Congress and more importantly, an internal audience in

the Armed Forces." "If we are talking of stability in the Armed Forces, this could be put to doubt if there's no credible resolution to these issues raised by Colonel Daquil," said Biazon.

Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, suggested that the military Inspector General conduct the investigation of Daquil's allegations even as he cautioned the military against threatening the whistle-blower with arrest and court-martial.

Biazon stressed that the military had to fully explain Daquil's charges amid reports that the government was short of money to pay the P42 billion in benefits of retirees and to fund the demand for increase in soldiers' subsistence

In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also urged the military to investigate Daquil's allegations and called on the Air Force to stop ha-

"If Colonel Daquil is telling the truth, the generals concerned should be investigated and punished accordingly," he said.

Dealing with adventurists

Representatives Antonio Cuenco (Lakas, Cebu City) and Federico Sandoval II (LP, Malabon-Navotas) said Daquil's claim that Air Force generals and wing commanders received illegal monthly allowances indicated that the colonel was "preempting the AFP to counter any move about his dealing with military adventur-

Cuenco said the burden of proof lay on Daquil who, Cuenco said, had himself admitted received his share of monthly "illegal" allowance of P8,500.

"If Daquil says such allowance is anomalous, then he is as guilty as the others," he said.

"The allowances should have been subjected to the normal process of accounting. The PAF must show these documents instead of just brushing aside the graft allegarions of Daquil," Sandoval said. With reports from TJ Burgonio,

Standing only 5'4", Daquil always ... Daquil said he was not the only

From page A1

Daquil was described as "one of the first to stand up for his principles and take a stand," said the member of the PMA class of 1976 to which Daquil belonged. "He was brave, gutsy and strong willed."

The classmate, who did not wish to be named, lauded Daquil's disclosures on Tuesday about alleged corruption in the Philippine Air Force.

Nothing unusual about him

"It's high time someone came out. How else will the public know about what's going on in the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines). It's a violation of policy but he had the guts to still do it, just like in our days as cadets," the officer said.

Two of Daquil's "mistahs," or PMA graduates, paint a different picture of the officer.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano told the Inquirer that there was "nothing unusual" and "nothing ex-. traordinary" about Daquil during , his cadet days.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil , also said that Daquil "was just , like anyone of us who spoke our minds and who live up to traditions" of the PMA.

Daguil and Bataoil worked side .. by side from 1993 to 1995 fight-, ing the communist insurgency in

Negros. Bataoil was then provincial director while Daquil was commander of the PAF unit in the

"After our days in the acade- and colonels does not have a my, I have known him to be an Air Force officer with a promising career. During our time in Negros, he performed his job outstandingly well," Bataoil

Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, also said Daquil must face the consequences of his act.

"The command position of the PAF is correct. There are certain procedures in bringing out concerns and he has to follow these as a member of a professional organization," Bataoil ex-

Immorality

A story about Daquil that is going around Villamor Air Base, headquarters of the PAF is how Daquil left his wife for a member of the military's Women's Auxiliary Corps (WAC). He had courted her on a dare.

But in his interview on Tuesday with reporters, Daquil said he expected his detractors to bring up the "immorality" issue against

"If they can show me any complaint or any case in court that I'm immoral, I'm willing to be jailed," Daquil said.

tion yet pending investigation but PAF as deputy of the 2nd Tactical under Daquil's service as person-

officer involved in extra-marital

"Who among the generals

girlfriend? If they charge me

with having a girlfriend, I'll ad-

mit I had a girlfriend. I'm ac-

cepting it. Even you reporters,

you have a lot of girlfriends," he

"But now, there is no girl-

three from his first marriage

who has been in the service for

29 years. "That was in the past. I

did not shack up with anyone

and I didn't have a child with

Deputy Wing Commander of the

PAF's 710th Special Operations

Wing based in Clark Air Base, an

training from the Americans and

was said to be flercely loyal to

The unit has received the most

In 2001, he became Chief of

Staff of the PMA after serving as

commander of the PAP's Flying

School in Pernando Air Base In Li-

taught a whole generation of

fighter pilots. With a report from

City, Batangas, where he

elite antiterrorism unit.

the PAF's Personnel Office.

Daquil's last assignment was

All in the past

anyone."

Daquil.

affairs.

ed by the DBM, Padilla said. "The Air Porce did not hold in its

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Ms Bordadora

He abandoned me and our children, says estranged wife

From page Al

vear-old. Emi said her husband had abandoned her and their three grown children for a younger woman in March last year after 25 years of marriage.

This is known throughout the Air Force, she said, weeping.

He couldn't manage a family friend," said Daquil, a father of

She said her husband's exposé was motivated by one thing: "He did not get what he wanted, what he had aspired for many years." She said Daquil wanted to become a PAF wing commander.

"If you can't manage your family, how can you manage a command," she said.

Emi also said she was compelled to speak in defense of the Air Force commanding ceneral, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes.

Reyes and his wife, according to Emi, were very close to her and In 2004, Daquil was Chief of

They were very close even when they were still lieutenants. They were the best of friends. We're like eating from just one plate because of our closeness," she said. And when the marriage start-

ed to crumble, Emi said, Reyes to influences from people behind



CRYING LADY is Emi Daquil, wife of the colonel, who blew the whistle on alleged irregularities in the Air Force. ROGER MARGALLO

was the friend who counseled the Emi said that as far as she

knew, her husband had no political connections.

However, his simation now-his failure to get a good position in the Air Porce-has most likely made him vulnerable

destabilization moves against the Arroyo administration, she said.

"If he had that position, do you think he'll speak against the command? It's just one plus one equals two," Emi said.

"A lot of officers are honorable and are true to their families and wives," Emi said.

Luige A. del Puerto Defensor: From 'Spice Boy' to 'Superboy' to 'Powerpuff'

· From page Al

vorite Cabinet secretary to a Palace-based office but Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's heart belongs to the Department of Social Welfare and Devel-

opment. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday hinted that Defensor could be moving to a new " office soon as part of the President's New Year reshuffle al-

dent" did not say where,

"He (Defensor) is a superboy. We expect him to do good wherever the President places him." Ermita sald in his weekly press

Defensor said that he was one of those offered by the President to head the Presidential Management Staff vacated by newly appointed Philippine Ambassador dent gave him the choice, Defen-

though the so-called "little presi- to Greece Rigoberto Tiglao.

But Defensor said the President had yet to make up her mind on whether he should leave the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "Nothing is final yet," Defensor said.

Closer to poor

When asked what Cabinet position he would pick if the Presi-

eyelash: "Social welfare secretary because I want to work closer to the poor."

The former Quezon City representative, who was one of the then neophyte congressmen dubbed "Spice Boys," evaded questions on whether his desire to be the next social welfare secretary (currently held by Lualhati Pablo) was tied to his plan to run

sor answered without batting an in the 2007 senatorial elections.

"The Constitution might have been changed by then and we have changed into a parliamentary form of government," Defensor said.

With GMA everywhere

Whether Defensor was chief of the government's housing portfolio (head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating

Council) or the environment bureau, Ermita said that "Defensor has always been the one accompanying the President everywhere."

Defensor was a campaign manager of the President in the 2004 elections and the President has repeatedly turned to him as troubleshooter on political matters, including last year's "Hello Garci"

Cory-FVR-Erap alliance sought

From page At

guess that such a possible meeting among the three former Presidents was among the topics discussed when Ramos on Jan. 2 had a secret meeting in Makati with Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III. (Story on Page A1.)

But Ramos appeared to shoot down the idea.

"There is no way that will happen," Ramos said in an interview on ANC network during a diplo-

matic reception.

He added that what Morales said was probably "based on haka-haka (speculation), rumor and their own scenarios, pero wala po yan (but there is nothing to that)."

"You want me to join you?" Ramos rhetorically asked. "Why don't you do something better. You join me in trying to create a one, national Philip-

Rames would not give a categorical answer when asked point-blank by ANC if he was

royo, saying, "Everybody is part Ms Arroyo to step down. of the team.

Pressed to be categorically, Ramos answered: "Com' on."

Morales, a stalwart of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, said in an interview with the INQUIRER that UNO believed Ramos was already moving toward the same position adopted by Aquino and Estrada—that Ms Arroyo should step down soon.

Principals updated

Drilon is known for his close ties with Aquino while Sotto is a member of the opposition that looks up to Estrada as its

A highly reliable source said Drilon and Sotto had "reported to their principals" the results of their meeting with Ramos.

"I don't know what transpired in the meeting among Ramos, Drilon and Tito Sotto, but I surmise it included the proposed meeting of the three former leaders," Morales said.

Ploy to keep GMA in power

"Until now, President Ramos has yet to take back his 'monuspeech," mental blunder Morales said, referring to Ramos' recent remarks criticizing Ms Arroyo's move to endorse to Congress a proposed draft Constitution, drawn up by her handpicked Consultative Commission, which calls for the scrapping of the 2007 elections to set the stage for the full parliamentary system of government by 2010.

"It's a sign that he also wants Ms Arroyo to leave office soon," Morales added.

A political saviour

Ramos, who wants early elections to clear the way for a parliamentary government, is widely credited with saving Ms Arroyo from political annihilation in July last year.

He said the opposition be- rescue and rallied the support of sitory "governing council" that

when she was confronted with a grave political crisis known since then as the "Hello Garci" scandal, which triggered the resignations of 10 of her key of-

Morales said his group considered Ramos part of a broader movement calling for the resignation of Ms Arroyo, despite his previous expression of support for

Veto powers

"If we get these three national leaders, I think it's a very symbolic situation where we have the three former Presidents joining forces," Morales said in another interview on ANC.

Such a coalition "will really add power and fuel to the movement" in the face of growing dissatisfaction of the people with Ms Arroyo, as indicated in opinion surveys, he said.

Morales said he believed the three former Presidents could That was when he came to her serve as senior advisers of a tran-

withdrawing support from Ms Ar- lieved that Ramos also wanted the Lakas party around her could be set up after Ms Arroyo Aquino, Ramos and Estrada unstepped down.

Of course, they would have an important role as advisers to whatever kind of transition council would be organized," Morales

"Maybe we can consider a situation where we ... can give them some veto powers or a very large participation in the governing council that will be organized."

Ramos' clout

Asked what Ramos could bring to the proposed alliance, Morales said:

"He commands a lot of following in the country. He has political party, the Lakas-NUCD, and he has many loyal officers in the Armed Forces and in the local government. He can bring all these people to join in this movement asking for the resignation of President Arroyo."

Morales indicated in the televiat the forefront of efforts to get

President" of a transition govern-

ment that would take over the Ar-

He joined former President

Corazon C. Aquino, under whom

he had served as justice secretary,

in calling for Ms Arroyo's resigna-

Sotto, for his part, was closely

identified with the camp of the

late actor, Fernando Poe Jr., who

lost to Ms Arroyo in last year's

presidential election, and Ar-

royo administration.

tion on July 8 last year.

der one wing.

"We would really like to take the first positive steps to get these three personalities to meet with each other," he said.

He added that the Jan. 2 meeting among Ramos, Drilon and Sotto could be viewed as "already an initial discussion."

Link to the people

"It could be in line with our earlier proposal that as soon as possible the three national leaders should get together," Morales

Morales said that from Ramos' previous stand of backing Ms Arroyo's stay in office, "I think he is already moving toward a clearet, critical position.

"You can imagine if three former Presidents take the same position, how can the (people) ignore that?"

Morales also said: "Being former presidents, (they) have a very direct connection with sion interview that his group was the greater majority of the peo-

Palace belittles coup talk: We have undiminished faith

From page Al

officers down and accused Air Force generals and wing commanders of illegally receiving monthly allowances of P45,000 on top of their salaries.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita saw Daquil's action as "breach of discipline of a senior officer" rather than as part of a

destabilization plot. "I do not know if you will consider that destabilization," Ermi-

ta said. Ermita said he had no information whether Daquil was working

with any group. A right-wing military faction mounted a brief mutiny against Ms Arroyo in 2003, accusing the military's top brass of corruption,

but it was quashed a day later. Clueless

Malacañang acknowledged it was clueless about Ramos' meeting with Drilon and Sorto but said it was certain its key ally was not about to change sides.

Ermita said Ramos after all was an "elder statesman" and had the national interest in mind.

"I would dare to say with my knowledge of President Ramos, national interest paramount with (him) and he would not wish to be linked with anything that could be interpreted as destabilizing," Ermita said. "He would rather that he plays a

role in unifying our country." At his weekly news conference, Ermita also said officials had cleared with Ramos any doubts he may have on the recommendations of Constitution-

Ermita says be also met with FVR

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDuardo Ermita said yesterday he met with former President Fidel Ramos on Dec. 27, a few days after Ramos described as a "monumental blunder" the proposal of the Constitutional Consultative Commission to scrap elections in 2007.

Ermita said Ramos had invited him and presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio to a

meeting in the former Presi- including the voting on the no dent's office at the Urban Bank building in Makati City after greeting him over the phone on Christmas Day.

Ermita said he also brought along Concom chair Jose Abueva and Concom officials Romela Bengzon and Carmen Pedrosa. They explained to Ramos what took place during deliberations on Charter change proposals,

election proposal.

We can see that among the things that were cleared up with President Ramos was the suspicion that the result of the work of the Concom was a precooked idea, meaning dictated from the Palace," he said. "And we had to inform the former President that was not true." Christine O.

that the meeting was also Ramos'

"It's a serup. It's a psy-war tactic

to send a message to Gloria that

bottle of wine, he just wants to

create a stir. It would be interest-

ing to know who leaked the infor-

mation to the media. If it's traced

to the Ramos' camp, that would

confirm our theory," he said.

royo's predecessor, Estrada. More questions

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the player again... It all boils down to meeting raised more questions on power. Since Ramos is no longer the administration's claim that in power, he wants to make him-Ms Arroyo has survived the worst self a player all the time," he said. political crisis of her political life. An opposition senator, who also asked not to be named, said

Biazon said that it was possible, as sources had divulged, that Ramos, Drilon and Sotto had disploy to draw the attention of Ms cussed the ConCom's proposal to Arroyo, who has ignored him for scrap the 2007 elections.

> ident, has not discussed the agenda of the Jan. 2 meeting with party members. "At the proper time we will be told by him," he said Vice President Noli de Castro

So far, Drilon, Liberal Party pres-

asked the people to give Ramos, Drilon and Sotto the benefit of the doubt.

Ramos should disclose to the public whether he had forged an alliance with the opposition against Ms Агтоуо, spokesperson of the President's political party said.

Their silence about their meeting has fueled speculations that they are cooking up something against the administration. The finger-pointing is deplorable and

multi-sectoral group, the Black they cannot play with the people's and White Movement, as "acting mind and future," Isabela Rep. Anthony Miranda, Kampi spokesperson, said in a statement.

Playing coy

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, stalwart of the Lakas-CMD party, also urged Ramos to disclose what transpired during the meeting. "If he has nothing to hide, he has nothing to fear in his disclosure," he said.

House Deputy Majority Leader Abraham Mitra said Ramos should stop playing coy, adding that restive officers in the military might misconstrue this as support for a coup.

"In these testy times, our support for the Constitution must be unequivocal. Responsible leaders should not stage events, meetings that could be read by adventurists as support for their cause," Mitra said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said Malacañang should not be "overconfident because Ramos-its main supporter-has started going to bed with Ms Arroyo's enemies."

Mariano said Ramos appeared to be "splitting the ranks" of the administration forces.

"It is highly impossible that FVR will negotiate on behalf of Ms Arroyo to forge unity with the opposition. Ramos has been highly displeased that after supporting Ms Arroyo last July 8, the illegitimate President has maneuvered to stay beyond the formula of graceful exit (Charter change) on which his support was conditioned," Mariano said. With reports Cynthia D. Balana, Michael Lim Ubac and AFP

ter he met with the former Presi-

Not ready to talk

Ramos continued to evade the media and went out of town

Through his spokesperson, Ed Malay, Ramos said: "I am not ready to talk about it (the meeting). Not now." But Malay said Ramos would

return to Manila on Friday and would face the media in his office on the same day, probably to address the issue.

Bunye said Ramos was "helping forge unity for the good of our nation and the welfare or our people." He described Ramos as a

"staunch ally of the administration," adding: "We are confident that whatever consensus arose from the meeting will be for the good of the country." Rumors of new coup attempts against Ms Arroyo have been

last year, which allegedly show that she cheated to win the May dent on Dec. 27. 2004 elections.

Many key Arroyo allies, including some of her Cabinet members, have turned against her and called for her resignation. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing and vowed to finish her term, which ends in 2010,

Ploy, psy-war, etc.

Ramos' meeting with Drilon 'Hey, you're not mixding me.' For a and Sotto was Ramos' ploy to gain concessions from President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to senators. "FVR is so full of mischief. My

guess is that he is testing how far Gloria will go to keep him in tow," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said. "[Ir's] a bargaining chip for concessions." An administration senator,

who asked not to be named, said the meeting was Ramos' "psywar" tactic to make Ms Arroyo "follow what he wants." "Now that Gloria is getting out

The meeting set off several speculations, including that the three personalities who belong to three disparate political blocs were forging an alliance against Ms Arroyo, who continued to grapple with charges that she

Drilon was being eyed by a

'Acting President'

the past months.

stole the presidency.

swirling since the opposition of the morass, he makes himself a came out with audiotapes in June al Consultative Commission af-Muñoz-Palma: Her words now enshrined in history

From page Al

Muñoz-Palma, who died on Monday at 92, was one of two justices of the Supreme Court who dissented from its decision to have former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. tried by a military tribunal. (The other was Claudio

Teehankee.) Aquino, who was among the hundreds of oppositionists arrested and detained when Perdinand Marcos imposed martial law in September 1972, had petitioned the high court to transfer him to a civilian court on grounds that he was a civilian.

In an article on Muñoz-Palma in the book "100 Women of the Philippines," the first Filipino woman justice of the Supreme Court explained why she dissented: "There rose before my eyes this gruesome specter of one, a hundred, a thousand civilian Filipinos being dragged by the mighty arms of the military before its own created and manned tribunals ... for offenses, real or imaginary, and tried and sentenced without the constitutional safeguards attendant to a trial by the civil court."

Diokno's release

Mufioz-Palma's other "test" case was her dissenting opinion on the continued detention of former Sen. Jose Diokno.

Also arrested at the onset of martial law, Diokno petitioned. I would say that it is incorrect.



THE ACTIVIST for justice and human rights, Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, is now at rest and reaping the JIH GUNO FUNZALAN accolades that she richly deserves.

for his release on grounds that he had not been formally charged after more than two years.

Muñoz-Palma was the only justice of the high court who backed Diokno's release, thereby directly opposing Marcos.

Her dissenting opinion read in part: "I am bothered by the thought that some of my colleagues may attribute my approach to Diokno's petition to my being a woman, and I may even be accused of allowing my emotions to overpower my reason.

"If there is such an assumption,

However, if it is indeed true that my being a woman led me to take this stand ... then I am happy and proud that I was born a woman." Again in the book "100 Women

" Muñoz-Palma recounted how she took refuge with the nuns at St. Scholastica's College, her high school alma mater, after submitting her dissenting opinion. She would find out later that

the military, in looking for her, even searched her parents' house in Bauan, Barangas. For opposing Marcos who ap-

pointed her to the high court in

1973, she would be branded an

"ingrate" by his lackeys.

In her memoirs, "The Mirror of my Soul," Muñoz-Palma ex-plained why she stood up to Marcos: "My oath of office is an oath of loyalty to the Constitution, to justice and the people, and is not an oath of fealty to the appointing

Resonance

Muñoz-Palma's words acquire resonance even to this day.

In 1975, she told an audience of her peers and other members of the bar on Law Day: "We shall be ludged by history ... not by what

we want to do and can't, [but] by what we ought to do and don't."

In 1986, after newly installed President Corazon Aquino appointed her head of the Constitutional Commission, Muñoz-Palma made a promise in her acceptance speech: "to create a Constitution founded on the solid rock of equality, justice, liberty and peace, reminding the people that it is they who have the final responsibility to give life to the

Before the year ended, she would make another speech upon the completion of the drafted Charter: "For the first time in the history of constitution-making, 'love' is enshrined in the fundamental law. This is most significant at this period in our national life when the nation is bleeding under the forces of hatred and violence."

Being a woman

Constitution.

Muñoz-Palma was a maverick and a pioneer. She was the first female district judge, the first female prosecutor, the second woman to sit in the Court of Appeals.

But she was also human. Writing home after being assigned to a court outside Manila for the first time, she said she missed her family so much that she intended to seek a transfer.

To which her husband Rodolfo replied: "If you give in to your loneliness, it will give the men an excuse to say that women are too

fragile and therefore not fit to be judges."

Of course, she stayed on.

In a statement issued on her passing, Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban said in part: "Justice Muñoz-Palma's death bereaves not only her family and the judiciary but also the entire Filipino nation to whom she has

brought much honor and whom

she has served so faithfully and well and with singular longevity, long after many of her contemporaries have faded away. Even more laudable than her already impressive achievements is the exemplary manner with which Justice Muñoz-Palma had lived her life and the courage by which she had stood by her convictions, most notably in the dark days of marcial law, Indeed for us

who follow in her footsteps in the

judiciary, she is a magisterial mod-

el of independence, integrity, in-

dustry, and intelligence, my four 'ins' of what a judge should be," Muñoz-Palma's remains will be transferred to the Supreme Court today for a series of necrological services by the Aurora Aragon Foundation, the Zonta Club and the Philippine Tuberculosis Soci-

ety, among others. Her daughter, Pearl Palma Cadema, said the burial ceremony would be held on Tuesday starting at 1 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial

Park in Marikina City. Reports from Fe Zamora and Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

200 feared dead in Indon landslide

JAKARTA-A LANDSLIDE UNLEASHED BY 160 people were buried in 80 heavy rains in Indonesia's mountainous Central Java Wednesday was feared to have left some 200 people dead, police said, as rescuers scrambled to search for survivors.

dozens of homes in the village of Clieruk, 370 km east of the capital

We suspect there are about 200 people in 120 houses buried in the mud," local chief of police operations Budi said, adding that about hope of finding survivors, he said. 150 police and soldiers were at the scene carrying out rescue opera-

Budi said workers had so far un-

A torrent of mud slammed into under the landslide, which slammed into houses at about 5 a.m. (2200 GMT Tuesday) after three days of monsoon rains.

Workers used two excavators and hand tools such as spades and hoes to dig into the mound in the

Residents living at the foot of Mount Raja ... heard a thundering sound before earth caved in," local official Nur Indah told AFP She covered five dead bodies buried said her office estimated about

Banjar Negara deputy police chief Gusti Indra Cahyadi told the online Detikcom news agency that the road leading to the village was damaged, hampering efforts to bring in more heavy rescue equip-

"The road is unstable and subsided, making it very difficult for heavy equipment to reach the area," he was quoted as saying.

He said the area was prone to landslides during the rainy season.

"There have been many landslides but in the past only 10 houres were hit at the most," he said.

The landslide came as rescuers continued to sift through debris and mud in the aftermath of flash

have killed at least 57 people and left thousands homeless.

"The evacuation of bodies is still continuing. Twenty bodies are still at the scene but they have been included in the tally. We will use a helicopter if land transport is not possible," Teduh Tedjo, who is coordinating police rescue efforts, told AFP by telephone from Jem-

Misdamo, from the disaster coordinating center in East Java's capital Surabaya, said the death toll was still at 57 but added that 17 more people were listed as

"Rescue workers are still combing the affected areas for more victims and trying to evac-

floods in East Java province which uate remaining dead bodies," he said. *Bridges have collapsed and the currents are strong so only SAR (search and rescue) workers have the capability to access the areas."

Pour villages in Jember district, 800 km east of the capital, were affected. About 5,000 refugees were sheltering in mosques, schools and other government buildings as 400 police and troops built emergency bridges and ferried medical aid, food and water to survivors.

Environmentalists blamed both disasters on rampant illegal logging as well as land conversion for farming on Java, one of the world's most densely populated islands, as they called on the government to take action.

"We can look forward to another disaster if they don't stop (deforestation) and if they don't reforest areas with original species to make new natural forests," Greenpeace Southeast Asia forestry campaigner Hapsoro told AFP.

This is a sign for the Indonesian government to be more seri-

More than 140 Indonesians were killed in February last year when a garbage slide buried more than 60 houses in a village southwest of Jakarta after days of heavy

In 2003, more than 200 lives were claimed when flash floods tore through Bahorok, a popular river-

EU holds emergency talks on Russia-Ukraine gas rift

BRUSSELS-THE EU HOLDS EMergency talks on Wednesday to seek ways to secure energy supplies in the face of a Russian-Ukrainian gas dispute that triggered shortages earlier this week.

Russia's gas supplies to Europe returned to normal on Tuesday after European customers complained about delivery shortfalls to a wintry continent when Moscow stopped supplies to Ukraine on Jan. 1 after Kiev rejected a fourfold hike in

Russian and Ukrainian officials met but neither side signaled any softening in the standoff between the two republics which formed the industrial axis of the former Soviet

With Europe highly reliant on Russia for energy, officials from the European Union's 25 member states were expected to discuss how the dispute had affected them and how they could ensure their gas needs were not disrupted in the future.

The officials were also likely to discuss a request for help in negotia-

SEOUL—A SOUTH KOREAN SCI-

entist whose work on tailored

embryonic stem cells has been

discredited, coerced junior fe-

male colleagues on his team to

donate their own eggs for his re-

search, a television network re-

al University said on Wednesday its

panel investigating Hwang Woo-suk

for scientific fraud would not com-

ment on the allegation until it releas-

Hwang, who claimed in a land-

mark 2005 paper he had made a

breakthrough in therapeutic

cloning research, was dealt a dev-

astating blow last week by the

panel, which said none of his

work, published in the journal

es its final findings next week.

A spokesperson for Seoul Nation-

ported late on Tuesday.

Moldova, another former Soviet republic hit by Moscow's decision to

The EU's Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, who will chair the meeting, said the bloc would be interested in helping negotiations if Russia agreed. But he gave no details on what role Brussels could play.

"We expect to also establish some form of community solidarity mechanism in the case if there is a gas disruption. I don't mean in this particular case, but in general," Piebalgs

Russia's state-run Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftogaz Ukrainy gas companies have been invited to give briefings at the meeting, which will also be attended by European industry representatives and consumer

Russia blames Ukraine for refusing to pay the same prices as its European neighbours and has accused Ukraine of stealing gas intended for European customers.

Ukraine says Russia is lying and

Scientist forced women for eggs-TV

Junior female researchers felt

compelled to subject themselves

to painful procedures to extract

eggs and contribute to Hwang's

research out of fear they would

otherwise be excluded from aca-

demic recognition, a member of

Hwang she wouldn't go through

with the procedure, and she said

Professor Hwang got upset and

said, "Why not?" said one re-

searcher, speaking about a col-

"She was worried, and it was

out of worry that she decided to

donate her eggs," said the re-

searcher, whose appearance and

voice were altered in the TV inter-

"She said she told Professor

Science, could be proved.

his team told MBC TV.

league on the team.

The Kremlin makes no secret of its dislike of the West-leaning stand of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, who rose to power a year ago after mass protests forced a rerun of elections initially won by a Moscow-backed candidate.

European countries and the United States have accused Russia of using energy supplies as a political

"We're glad to see that the (gas) flow has been resumed, and we hope that the Russians and the Ukrainians can reach some type of accommodation," said a White House spokesman.

Moscow wants Ukraine to pay \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas, up from the current \$50 price that is rooted in Soviet-era subsidies, but Ulcraine says such a big hike could wreck its weak economy.

Ukraine's gross domestic product may fall by 5 percent and inflation rise to 27-30 percent in 2006 if the price for Russian gas increases to \$230, a senior government official accuses the Kremlin of punishing it was quoted as saying on Tuesday by

view to shield her identity.

The donor went back to

Hwang's laboratory and conducted

the cloning experiment on the eggs

that she herself had contributed

not being able to stand up to the

professor," the donor wrote in an e-

mail message, provided to MBC.

"I hope I can forgive myself for

MBC TV has closely followed

questions about Hwang's research

and reported in November that the

scientist purposely withheld infor-

mation about the source of the

since he resigned from Seoul Na-

tional University on Dec. 23. He

did not comment on the latest re-

Reuters

Hwang has been in seclusion

eggs used in his study.

that morning, her colleague said.



FILE PHOTO in 2001 shows a researcher examining skeletons of the Napoleonic soldlers discovered in a mass grave on a building site in

Lice destroyed Napoleon's army in Russia, say scientists

PARIS-THE HISTORY BOOKS say that after reaching Moscow in 1812, Napoleon's army was laid low by the Russian winter and then finished off by hunger, battle wounds and low morale as it

straggled back to France. The truth, say scientists, is more intriguing but rather less poetic: the biggest destroyer of the Grande Armee was Pediculus

humanus-the human louse. A team led by Didier Raoult of France's National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) examined the remains of Napoleon's soldiers who had been buried in a mass grave in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, 800 km west of Moscow.

Samples of earth, cloth and reeth recovered from the site suggest that more than 30 percent of these troops were killed by bacterial fever transmitted by lice.

The parasites caused relapsing fever, through the bacterium Borrelia recurrentis; trench fever, a condition well known in the Westem Pront of World War I, caused by the germ Bartonella quintana; and typhus, caused by the Rickettsia prowaseki bacterium.

The evidence comes from remains of the fleas that were found in the common grave and in the soldiers' uniforms, and from the presence of Bartonella quintana in some of the fleas themselves.

side resort in North Sumatra. AFP **US** seeks dismissal of

WASHINGTON—THE US JUSTICE Department will seek to dismiss more than 180 cases involving inmates at Guantanamo Bay who have challenged their detention in court, court documents showed on Tuesday.

terror cases

The department filed a notice to judges presiding over the cases at the US District Court in Washington to advise them that by the end of next week the Justice Department would file official motions to dismiss the cases.

The notice comes a week after President George W. Bush signed new legislation banning cruel and inhumane treatment of prisoners. The anti-torture law also curbs the ability of . prisoners being held at the US Naval Base in Cuba to challenge their detention in federal

The legislation requiring humane treatment of detainees in US custody was originally opposed by the White House. But Bush backed off his original veto threats after Congress voted overwhelmingly to support the amendment, pushed by Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

In a concession to the White House, the bill limits prisoners from going to lower-level civilian courts for relief from confinement. They can only go to an appeals court once they have gone through a military court

The US has faced criticism at home and abroad for treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo and for holding prisoners indefinitely. Only nine of about 500 prisoners being held at the base have been charged, and the United States has been holding prisoners there since January

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Top Republican lobbyist pleads guilty to fraud

WASHINGTON-A TOP REPUBLICAN LOBBYIST pleaded guilty on Tuesday to conspiracy, fraud and tax evasion in a case which could lift the lid on one of the most explosive US political corruption scandals in decades.

"Words will not ever be able to express my sorrow for this," Jack Abramoff, 46, said at a brief appearance in US District Court, where he expressed "profound regret for the multitude of mistakes and harm I have caused.

"I only hope that I can merit forgiveness from the Almighty and those I have wronged," said the former powerbroker in the dollar-soaked Washington lobbying community.

The guilty plea followed days of negotiations between Abramoff's lawyers and prosecutors and sets the stage for his cooperation in an investigation which threatens a number of powerful members of the US Congress, including Tom Delay, the former Republican majority leader of the House of Representa-

Abramoff could face up to 30 years in prison and restitution of \$25 million but is expected to receive a significantly lesser sentence in exchange for his testimony against former associates in Congress and their aides.

WORLDBRIEFS

Hopes dim for ice rink victims

BAD REICHENHALL, Germany-Hopes of rescuing a woman and three youths feared trapped under the collapsed roof of a German ice rink began to fade on Tuesday, just hours after the bodies of 11 dead were recovered. Chief fire officer Rudi Zeif said there had been no signs of life from the woman and three youths, aged 12 to 16, that officials believe are still trapped under the rubble some 30 hours after the roof collapsed on Monday.

China confirms bird flu in Sichuan

BELLING--China has suffered its first bird flu outbreak among poultry in Sichuan, the nation's third-most populous province and a major agricultural base, the government said Wednesday. A disease that killed 1,800 birds in a village in Dezhu county in the southwest Chinese province in late December was confirmed as the H5N1 virus by government researchers Tuesday, the agriculture ministry said on its website. "It's the first ever outbreak of bird flu in Sichuan," said an official with the provincial livestock bureau, who declined to be named.

Race against time at W. Virginia mine

TALLMANSVILLE, W.Va.—Rescue workers reced against time on Tuesday with fading hopes of saving 13 trapped coal miners, and officials said it would take a miracle for the men to be found alive. There had been no communication with the miners since they were trapped after an explosion at 6:30 a.m. (1130 GMT) on Monday at the Sago mine in central West Virginia. Officials, who reported poisonous gas in the mine, feared Tuesday night offered the last hope of finding survivors. Rescuers had dug 3,400 meter into the mine.

Eight Iraqis killed in US air raid

BAIJI, !raq--At least eight !raqle, including two children, were killed when a US plane bombed a residential house in northern Iraq where insurgents were believed to be hiding, Iraqi and US officials said Tuesday. The US milllary Tuesday confirmed it attacked a house in Baiji, 200 km north of Baghdad, late Monday after an unmanned drone spotted three men planting s coadside bomb and then fleeing into the building. "The Individuals were assessed as posing a threat to Iraqi civilians and coalition forces, and the location of the three man was relayed to close air support pilots," said US milltary spokesperson Lt. Col. Barry Johnson.

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES

warned Iran on Tuesday against resuming

atomic fuel research and development next

week in what could become a showdown over

the West's suspicions that Tehran wants to

velopment work that Iran said would resume

on Jan. 9 could help what Washington believes

is Tehran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon, State

Department spokesperson Sean McCormack

ed steps, the international community will

have to consider additional measures to re-

strain Iran's nuclear ambitions," he said, with-

out specifying what action the United States

says its atomic programs are for peaceful pow-

tute for Near East Policy, said European powers

have in the past made it clear they would not

sumption to rally other powers, such as Russia,

to adopt its harder line against Iran, he said.

tolerate Iran restarting nuclear research.

Tehran denies seeking nuclear weapons and

Patrick Clawson, of the Washington Insti-

And the United States would use any re-

The resumption will be a real Rubicon for

the Iranians to cross," he said. "It has been ex-

pected for months that this could be a real gal-

"If Iran takes any further enrichment-relat-

The United States suspects research and de-

build a nuclear bomb.

told reporters.

er generation.

US warns Iran against

resuming atomic research

nuclear programs a top foreign policy goal. For

months, it has been pressing for Iran to be re-

ferred to the United Nations Security Council

for possible sanctions because it says Iran has

failed to dispel suspicions it is building a nucle-

has gradually been eroding as Iran has taken

an increasingly hard line insisting on its right

sume nuclear research and development,

which it suspended as part of an agreement

with Britain, France and Germany two years

ago to defuse international pressure over its

and assembly of centrifuges used for uranium

enrichment, the most sensitive part of the nu-

clear fuel cycle. It could also include some

Diplomats said Tuesday's announcement,

which followed Iran's resumption of uranium

conversion in August, was a serious blow to

a line around something being pure research

with respect to enrichment activities, (that) is

not something that we're going to buy, and I

don't think the international community will

either." European powers have been leading

McCormack said: "In terms of trying to draw

diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute.

Such work may include the manufacture

to develop peaceful nuclear programs.

atomic ambitions.

small-scale enrichment tests.

International resistance to such a referral

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran said it would re-



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The United States has made curbing Iran's for economic incentives. The diplomatic focus in recent weeks has been on a compromise proposal in which Iran would enrich uranium in Russia. That would allow Iran to develop programs for power generation but allay Western fears that the Islamic Republic could get its hands on bomb-grade,

highly enriched uranium. With Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly hint-

ing Tehran would reject the proposal, the United States also complained on Tuesday that Iran was using stalling tactics.

"The Iranians have really done, sort of, a bob-and-weave on this issue," McCormack said.

"They have been seeking to extend out discussions, not really commit to whether or not they are going to negotiate in a serious manner. And, frankly, the patience of the international community is not infinite on this issue because it's issue,"

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THIS FILE picture shows Iranian Turkman fishermen using a net to pull a Beluga sturgeon onto their boat in the Caspian Sea, off the Iranian port of Bandar Turkman.

UN freezes int'l trading of caviar from sturgeon

GENEVA-A UNITED NATIONS ductions in stocks or make suffibody on Tuesday slapped a freeze on exports of caviar from wild sturgeon, saying the move was essential to protect the endangered fish that produces the gourmet eggs.

It is now up to exporting nations to come forward with new proposals if they want to restart the money-spinning commerce.

Every year, the Convention on International Trade in Engandered Species (CITES) asks caviar producing countries for a quota for the following year's catch.

CITES, a UN organization grouping 169 countries, said it could not approve the 2006 quotas proposed by major exporting nations, saying they "may not fully reflect the re-

cient allowance for illegal fishing."

"Since the CITES system only allows sturgeon products to be exported during the year in which they are harvested and processed, as of now it is not possible to export caviar and other sturgeon products from shared stocks," the organization said.

It was referring to natural habitats shared between several nations, mainly the five around the Caspian Sea: Azerbaljan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan. Fish-farmed sturgeon are unaffected.

Officials at the UN organization said CITES could end the freeze if it received satisfactory new proposals but did not give a timetable. AFP

Global warming 55M years ago shifted currents

PARIS-AN EXTRAORDINARY BURST OF global warming that occurred around 55 million years ago dramatically reversed Earth's pattern of ocean currents, a finding that strengthens modern-day concern about climate change, a study says.

The big event, the Palaeocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), saw the planet's surface temperature rise by between five and eight degrees C in a very short time, unleashing climate shifts that endured tens of thousands of years.

Scientists Flavia Nunes and Richard Norris of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California explored how these warmer temperatures might have affected ocean currents.

They measured carbon-13 isotopes from 14 cores that had been drilled into the deep floor in four different ocean basins, taking samples from sediment layers deposited before, during and af-

ter the PETM. These isotopes are considered to be an indicator of the nutrients deposited by the water at the time. The higher the isotope value, the likelier that the source came from the deep ocean, the prime source for nutrients.

With a painstaking reconstruction, Nunes and Norris found that the world's ocean current system did a U-turn during the PETM-and then,

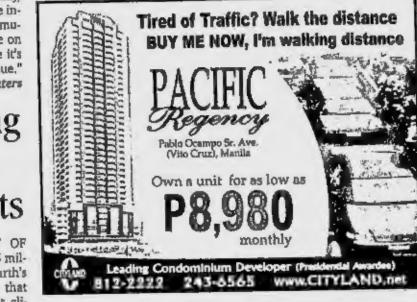
ultimately, reversed itself Before the PETM, deep water upwelled in the southern hemisphere; over about 40,000 years, the source of this upwelling shifted to the northem hemisphere; it took another 100,000 years

before recovering completely. What unleashed the PETM is unclear Most fingers of blame point to volcanic eruptions that disgorged gigatons of carbon dioxide, or coastal reservoirs of methane gas, sealed by icy soil, that were breached by warmer temperatures or re-

The huge temperature rise may have occurred within just few thousand years, but as Nunes and Norris point out, the effects were enduring and the lesson for mankind today is clear.

"Modern CO2 input to the biosphere from fossil fuel sources is approaching that estimated for the PETM, raising concerns about future climate and circulation change," they warn.

"The PETM example shows that anthropogenic (1/8)man-made(3/8) forcing may have lasting effects not only in global climate but in deep-ocean circulation as well."





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Archaeologists find oldest known irrigation canals in S. America

LIMA-IN PERU'S ANDEAN FOOTHILLS A group of archaeologists say they have found remnants of the oldest known irrigation canals in South America, which they hope will provide clues to the origin of the region's agriculturally based societies.

There are four sites in the area that have canals that date minimally 5,300 years ago, maybe a little earlier," team leader Tom D. Dillehay, an archaeologist at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, told The Associated

Dillehay started his research nearly 30 years ago In the Zana Valley, 60 km inland from the Pacific Ocean and about 620 km northwest of

The conclusions, reported in a recent issue of The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences-a peer reviewed publication of the Washington-based National Academy of Sciences—offer evidence, long suspected by archaeologists, that irrigation technology was critical to the development of Peru's ear-

ly civilization, Dillehay said.

The Zana Valley canals are the earliest known in South America," wrote the authors of the journal article, Dillehay, Herbert H. Eling Jr. of the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Mexico and Jack Rossen of Ithaca

Dr. Daniel Morales, director of the school of archaeology at Peru's San Marcos University, said he had not seen the article, but was familiar with Dillehay's work. He said the "discovery of the Zana canals is very important because it could be linked to the first form of irrigated agriculture" in Peru,

Dillehay, in a telephone interview from Chile, said the team first discovered some of the canals and agricultural features in 1985 and dated them for the first time in 1989.

But he said his team waited until now to publish its findings to better understand the hydraulic engineering of the hunters and gatherers who made a historic break from their ancestors to tend "early gardens."



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Idle boast

▼HE CRIME RATE DROPPED SHARPLY IN 2005, according to the Department of of Interior and Local Government. This was especially true of car thefts, bank and highway robberies, hijackings, illegal gambling and street crime, the DILG said. Car thefts, for instance, fell sharply to 945 last year from 1,440 the year before. "The police, with the strong backing of the community, are slowly winning the war

EDITORIAL against criminality (and) making our society and streets peaceful and crimefree," Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes declared.

Maybe Reyes would not have crowed so fast and so loud if he looked a little closer at the crime picture. First, while certain crimes were reduced, there were others whose numbers went up. Kidnapping cases, for one, went up to 63 in 2005, from 46 in 2004, according to the anticrime watchdog Kaisa para sa Kaunlaran. What is the score in regard to other "index crimes"?

Second, for certain crimes whose incidence went , down, the gravity of those that did happen last year might have been greater. While bank robberies were cut to 22 in -2005, for example, the total take from these capers was P90 million. The year before, bank robbers struck 41 times, but ran away with only P59 million.

. Third, the police cannot claim full credit for the fall in the number of car thefts that Reyes seemed so proud about. While the number of cases in 2004 was cut by more than one-third last year, less than half of the 945 vehicles stolen were actually recovered by the police or their owners. That doesn't look like good police work, any way one looks at the information.

Fourth, the most likely cause of the sharp reduction in official crime statistics may not be that fewer crimes are being committed but fewer and fewer citizens are reporting crimes. Pulse Asia, in a recent survey of 1,200 people, found that 15 out of every 100 people, or a total of 180 among those surveyed, claimed to have been victims of crime. But then 4 out of every 5 victims didn't go to the police.

What these figures say is that official crime statistics are a most inaccurate and unreliable gauge of the overall peace and order situation. If only 1 out of every 5 crime victims go to the police to complain, then the crime rates recorded by the police will have to be multiplied five times to get closer to the reality.

But these figures have even more disturbing implications than just boosting the actual rate of criminality. They cry out to ask the most logical question: Why do victims shy away from reporting the crimes to the police? Were the crimes perhaps too petty to waste one's time and effort to file a case? This could well be the reason in a good number of cases, since more than half of unreported cases involved burglary. But what about the more serious crimes? Were the victims loath to report them because they didn't trust the police? Was it because they didn't have the resources-the money to hire lawyers especially—to bring their tormentors to justice? Or had they completely lost confidence in our

It is unfortunate that Pulse Asia didn't bother to find out the reasons for the failure of the overwhelming majority of victims to report crimes. These would have been more useful than mere crime statistics. But the DILG and the police should pick up where the private pollster left off and try to determine why there is so much reluctance to report crimes. More than the usual self-laudatory yearend reports, finding the reasons and addressing them will go a long way in reducing the crime rate.

Dubious practices

HE BREWING CONTROVERSY INVOLVING THE ALLEGED abduction and interrogation of five Pakistani immigrants living in Greece raises a number of crucial questions. The law, of course, gives the intelligence services the power to interrogate terrorism suspects. Nevertheless the authorities chose the illicit path in a way that does not appear to be an accident.

FOREIGN COMMENT

It seems that politicians are to blame but for more than just illicit actions by secret agents. Such practices are not exclusive to Greece's intelligence services. Under pressure to combat international terrorism, many European governments have yielded to the temptation of tolerat-

ing and in some cases giving the green light to dubious practices. The state's image is valuable and it must be protected by all, most crucially by its functionaries. And herein lies the crux of the matter. The ease with which legal proceedings have been violated is just one side to the problem. The other, an equally sad sight, is the ease with , which names, rumors and scenarios began to circulate.

Kathimerini (Athens, Greece)



'No basta decir adios'

"FEW DIE AND NONE RESIGN," THOMAS Jefferson griped in an 1801 letter. And in 2006, pirates in our Commission on Elections refuse to die. Nor is anyone quitting.

Embattled election commissioners instead scoff at Senate Blue Ribbon Committee Report No. 44. Crafted by Sen. Joker Arroyo, the 22page document reveals how poll officials handcuffed a nation to fraud-marred manual vote counts while looting the treasury.

Arroyo is the savvy prosecutor who, as the na-tion stood glued to TV screens, nailed down the "Jose Velarde" bank accounts at the Estrada impeachment trial. He brings the same incisive skills to bear in SR 44.

Did former Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangeo and Ralph Lantion believe that retirement provides immunity? No basta decir adios, SR 44 says. It's not enough to say goodbye.

The committee demands that they be prosecuted for the "manipulated bidding" of the P1.3billion Mega Pacific Consortium contract. Its computers flubbed Department of Science and Technology tests. They were mothballed in the May 2004 elections.

Tancangco, Lancion, Mehdol Sadain and Rufino Javier were the Comelec's "Gang of Pour," asserted the Cebu Daily News on June 19, 2002. Appointed by President Joseph Estrada, these "mediocrities paralyzed Comelec...by boycotting 42 percent of sessions," freezing papers of 156 election officers and reinstating those fired for corruption.

Why did yesterday's budding abuses metastasize into full-blown scandals today, graphically documented by SR 44?

A partisan House committee on justice, in the previous Congress, sabotaged an early impeachment charge against Tancangeo for the abuses that SR 44 scrambles to correct three years later.

Representatives Marcelo Libanan and Wilfredo Villarama led 36 Estrada lawmakers who refused to even look at the charges. They "opted not to explain their votes," House Committee Report 1099 notes. This fractured Rule III, in their own Rules of Procedure.

"If government becomes a law breaker, it breeds contempt for the law," US Supreme Court



Justice Louis Brandeis once wrote. "It invites every man to become a law unto himself."

So, yesterday's swindles spiraled into today's payback. No basta decir adios. Thus, SR 44 seeks the prosecution of Comelec Bids and Awards Committee members Eduardo Mejos (chair), Gideon de Guzman, Bartolomeo Sinocruz, Lamberto Llamas and Jose Balbuena (now retired).

The BAC tailored criteria to suit Mega Pacific Consortium, a firm incorporated 11 days before deadline, SR 44 found. That the "winning bidder" couldn't submit three-year financial statements, as required, was shrugged off. And specifications were altered in mid-stream as computers conked out.

Commissioners are not psychics. Yet, they awarded the contract six days before they received the BAC's April 21, 2003 written recommendation. That, as my barber says, is lutong

"The illegal, imprudent and hasty actions of the Commission...cast serious doubts upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections," the Supreme Court ruled in January. "Truly, the pith and soul of democracy-credible, orderly and peaceful elections has been put in jeopardy by the illegal and gravely abusive acts of Comelec."

The Court thus pinpointed what bugs people. As constituted today, the Comelec may perform by racketeer Al Capone's standard: "Vote early-and vote often.

SR 44 doubts if the current Comelec leadership can conduct credible polls. Poils are set for 2007. And there could be a possible referendum on constitutional change. Would you entrust that process to Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra, Mehol Sadain, Plorentino Tuazon Jr. and Rufino Javier?

The whole Senate won't. It adopted SR 44's recommendation that the commissioners quit-with the exception of former Court of Appeals Pelix Brawner, appointed only in September. "In God we trust," the skeptics say. "All others we virus scan."

President Macapagal-Arroyo aggravated the mess left by Estrada's "Gang of Four" with her choice of Benjamin Abalos, Virgilio Garcillano et al., noted this column in June 2004. "Overhauling a Conselec of depreciated credibility commands priority—and enjoys rare consensus."

A Jeffersonian mass resignation at the Comelec would enable the President to reverse her habit of deadbeat appointees. "A new broom sweeps clean."

In the new year, will she appoint, at last, persons in the mould of incorruptible past commissioners, like the late Rodrigo Perez Jr., Haydee Yorac, Ramon Felipe, Christian Monsod and justretired Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.? "A good man protects three villages," the Chinese proverb says.

This is crucial. Road blocks to computerized poils are far more deeply embedded than they seem. There's evidence that the primitive manual counts suit politicians just fine, the Japan Times has noted.

In the current budget, "there's no allocation for election automation, as provided by a 1997 law," Inquiren's Solita Monsod has noted. Nor is any effort made to set aside funds for automa-

The Comelec, meanwhile, pays P3.9 million in storage fees every year for kaput computers. It has not collected the illegal advances it made. And it wants another 91.3 billion to purchase new counting machines.

"I won't resign," Abalos says.

Come 2007, the manual count may resurface. And Nicaraguan dictator Anastacio Somoza's rule of thumb would haunt us: "You won the elections but I won the count."

Sign up now for that Internet petition demanding that Abalos & Cronies walk the plank, remembering: No basta decir adias.

E-mail: Juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Even closer than we think

IT WAS ALMOST EXACTLY A YEAR AGO WHEN i wrote a couple of pieces expressing alarm at what was happening to the world's climate. I am by no means an expert or an exceptionally knowledgeable person about climatic changes, but I don't know that one has to be so to nodce the havoc Nature has been causing the world these last few years.

When I wrote the columns last year, two horrifying natural disasters had just taken place. Close to home, a typhoon had struck the eastern seaboard of Luzon and buried Infanta, Quezon, in floods and mudsildes. The scale of devastation was such that a couple of weeks later, they were still pulling mud-caked bodies out from the earth. Mt. Carmel became a virtual headquarters for relief operations.

Barely had the last wall issued from the place when an even greater tragedy struck, one that laid low several countries. A colossal tidal wave, or tsunami, engulfed the shores of countries along the Indian Ocean, followed by a killer earthquake. "Catastrophe" seemed too weak a word to describe it, tragicomic images like that of cars perched on rooftops in the aftermath offering a glimpse of the fury. The death toll was mind-boggling, more than a hundred and fifty thousand people, half of them in Banda Aceh, Sumatra, alone killed. Several villages were wiped out overnight, as the wall of water crashed upon them without warning.

Shortly after I wrote this, a couple of readers complained that I was being alarmist, that the scientific facts showed my apocalyptic fears were completely unfounded. Well, 2005 proved an even more plentiful year for natural disasters, most Americans, readers of newspapers and viewers of TV ranking Burricane Katring as the No. 1 story of the year. Before that disaster struck, George W. Bush had just made a big show of leading the relief effort in Aceh and neighboring places. Katrina would soon show Nature did not reserve its wrath only for the poor countries of the world. Overnight, a part of the American heartland itself metamorphosed into a Third World country, yielding



scenes you previously saw only in countries in Africa and Asia.

saw a chilling footage of the disaster on CNN shortly before the New Year. A native of New Orleans was trying to rebuild his home by selling a videotape he took of the ordeal he went through. CNN had just bought it. The video began with feroclous winds that bent trees and hurled cars this way and that, and went on to chronicle the ascent of the floodwaters into the man's upper floors. You can imagine how it must have felt to watch that creeping death come to you. The man himself did not think he would survive it. One of his last shots showed the neighborhood sunk in water with only the rooftops of a house or two and a steeple standing. Happily, the man did survive it: The

waters stopped rising before they got to him. As it was though, the hurricane would be nothing compared to the storm that would soon be unleashed on American officials. Overnight, Bush's ratings plummeted to an all-time low for bungling the response, the preponderant black community in particular demanding to know what he was doing in fraq when the one place he needed to rebuild was right under his nose. To this day, Bush has yet to rebuild his now completely disaster-ed image.

A couple of months later, a killer earthquake struck Pakistan around the Kashmir region. How much of a killer it was you see from the toll: 38,000 dead, 60,000 injured, 3.3 million rendered homeless. The wailing and sounds of grief can be heard even now.

Those were just two of the worst disasters last year. There were others, including hurricanes in various parts of the world-last year was a

record in the United States, 27, breaking the record which stood at 21 in 1933-typhoons across Asia, famine and food shortages in Africa from bitter drought and sudden cold speils.

Alarmist? Well, as Bill Blakemore of ABC News points out, "alarmist" is defined by the American Heritage Dictionary as "one who needlessly alarms others." Today, the alarm bells are being sounded by scientists themselves. In a meeting in Brooklin, Canada, last month, they revealed the following: 2005 was the hottest year in modern times; the impact of climate change was coming faster than expected; satellite photos show there is 20 percent less Arctic ice today than in 1978, a speed of melting unprecedented in history ("the Arctic is a major driver for the earth's weather cycle"); a study shows over half of the northern hemisphere's permafrost would melt by 2050, unleashing bitlions of tons of methane, a greenhouse gas more potent than carbon dioxide, which would dramatically accelerate global warming; Greenland lost 162 cubic kilometers of ice each year from 2002 to 2005, higher than all previous estimates, contributing to rising sea levels; and so on.

Scientists agree on one thing: It will take more than the Kyoto Protocol to arrest the dying of the planet. "Carbon emissions will need to fall by 80 or 90 percent, rather than 5 or 10 percent, to have an effect on the models. In terms of a response, Kyoto is only a start," says Guy Brasseur, head of the Hamburg-based Max Planck Institute for Meteorology. As it is, the United States refuses to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, Nasa's Dr. James Hansen sounds a note of urgency. We only have a window of 10 more years to drastically cut carbon emissions before we turn the planet into the hottest it's ever been since the last 500,000 years.

Do we really need these dire warnings to realize how messed up the climate has gotten? We don't add our voices to the chorus demanding steep cutbacks in carbon emissions, the epitaph of this planet will soon read, "Laid low by the greatest disaster of them all: Human

OPINION

Let's not sow instability when things are looking up

President Fidel V. Ramos' penthouse office at Urban Bank between him, Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto can't be regarded as a mere New Year's social. It has to be taken in the light of certain events. Notable is the Jan. 1 "deadhne" PVR set for President Macapagal-Arroyo to come up with a definitive stand on the transitory provision in the draft constitution crafted by the Consultative Commission calling for the cancelation of the 2007 elections. He has termed No-El a "monumental blunder" and sought a categorical rejection of the idea from her. Recall that six months ago, he had also asked her to "sacrifice" by stepping down in 2007 to give way to a new set of leaders in a new parliament.

Over the holidays, however, GMA kept stient on this "deadline." Thus the meeting at Urban Bank may be his way of expressing peeve at her snub. Inside sources say that holding elections in 2007 or doing away with them is acceptable to GMA either way since her term doesn't end until 2010. But it's also said that she'd rather not discuss this subject openly because she does not want to alienate her ardent local government supporters who understandably favor No-El, But FVR, who's perceived to have "saved" her presidency last July 8, is unhappy about her silence.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in yesterday's Palace press conference, downplayed the Ramos "deadline" and meeting by pointing out that FVR got a briefing at his residence last Dec. 27 from ConCom Chair Jose Abueva and other commissioners regarding this provision. Ermita said the purpose was to let FVR hear it straight from the horse's mouth and convince him that GMA had nothing to do with it. Apparently, he was not convinced.

The Urban Bank meeting is significant because it brought two people who owe big debts of gratitude to Cory Aquino: FVR, her anomited presidential candidate in 1992; and Drilon, who held several Cabinet positions in her government. Until now noted in yesterday's editorial, the peso is at its Congress with the reputation for being the the "centrist" opposition to GMA, led by Aquino strongest in nearly three years and the budget est with people's money, Sen. Joker Arroyo.

POLITICAL . TIDBITS Belinda and do not threaten each other. Olivares-Cunanan

and Drilon, has failed to take off, despite the Black and White Movement's avowal to install the latter as "acting president" after Noli de Castro spurned its offer of leadership. Drilon just doesn't excite polineally. But if FVR were to join them, he could concelvably unify the opposition against GMA.

Pundits speculate that FVR, in meeting with Drilon, who heads the Liberal Party, and Sotto, who represents the Estrada faction of the op-position, may be forging alliances to enable him to take hold of power as "transitional prime minister." This speculation runs counter to his public avowals at Laksa meetings for younger leaders to take over from the senior generation. Few, however, would probably doubt that hope still springs in the heart of this old but still capable ex-military man that he could return to power even in an interim capacity. But this perception has its own pitfall: Since FVR is among the most ardent advocates of a partiamentary shift, his advocacy could be tarred if he's perceived as pushing for himself. It could affect even more his waning popularity, as borne out in a recent poli survey.

The Ramos factor is loaded with political significance, as he is chair emeritus of the ruling Lakas of which GMA is chair and Speaker Joe de Venecia is president. Where he goes could affect that party. There's also the military connection. But if FVR is asking GMA for sacrifice, I wish he would also do the same. Prospects for the country are looking up and it would not be good to create new political instability. As the Standard Today

reforms. The dire effects of the E-VAT have been cushioned and the T-bills auction has lower yields because government now has to borrow less from domestic sources, Let's put the parliamentary system in place with the slightest ripple, but this can be done only if our top leaders talk things over

Talk about an impending reshuffle not just in the Cabinet but also in other government offices is natural at this time of the year and given the need for GMA to strengthen her hand at governance. One of those who should be given a bigger role is the amiable Saced Daof, former MILP envoy and chair of its economic development committee and currently director general of the Center for the Promotion of Peace and Development in Mindanao (CPPDM). Saeed is one of the few Muslim leaders who truly understand how to resolve the seething conflict in many places between Christians and Muslims. I've followed his advocacy to promote a culture of peace in Mindanao, instead of a "culture of war" or a "culture of conflict." His main instrument is his Tourney to Peace: Understanding Muslim and Christian Commonalities," a series of dialogues the CPPDM began and will continue to carry out in various places. In these dialogues, Saced seeks to get away from what he calls the "blame-game syndrome" that perpetuates the dichotomy between "them and us," and, worse, the claim to a "monopoly of righteousness of both sides." Saced's dialogue gets folks from both sides to talk about what they have in common rather than what sets them apart. He involves as "resource persons" various people with extensive experience in the conflict areas, including executives of local and foreign companies that are technology- and development-oriented, thereby removing the stigma of exploitation of the indigenous. Truly he's ready for a bigger role.

Birthday greetings today to the member of Congress with the reputation for being the thrifti-

Walking

I HAD THE MOST EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE THIS

Today I realized how I've massed life's simple joys. And I felt sad to find out that for some time now, I was a prisoner in the city. I was caught in the rat race and became so absorbed with the unending search for money and the pressures of the workplace that I forgot the things I had enjoyed when I was living in the province, alone

YOUNG BLOOD

with the flowers and the butterflies.

Maybe it's one result of my own finan-Dheza Marie Aguilar cial problems or it We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their

may be my feeble attempt to help conserve energy, but I thoughts on current issues? We have joined MMDA welcome contributions from the Chair Bayani Fernan-twentysomething and below.-Ed. do's "walking cam-

paign," It has been a week now since I started the practice of walking from my dorm to the jeepney stop, which I used to travel on a pedicab. I save PS one way or P10 daily, which adds up to P60 weekly and P120 for half a month. The last figure makes up one day's allowance, which I can now add to my

But even more valuable than the money I save from each trip, I have rediscovered that walking makes you notice everything along the way. Even the timest dead cockroach I see on the street makes my thoughts fly to parts known and unknown.

Walking has made me thankful that I can eat three meals a day and lie down on a nice, warm bed at night. Many people live in shacks that cannot be much larger than the pigpens I have seen in Marinduque. But it can be so frustrating to realage that much as I want to help them, I can do little more than walk past them every morning since my finances are tight.

The morning walk makes me enjoy the not so fresh air in our neighborhood as well as the morning sunlight on my pale face. It has been a long time since sweat had trickled down my back and my forehead and the feeling can be quite relaxing. Now I know what I missed when I exchanged exercise for a couch, a computer and a boob tube for the longest time!

I feel very light whenever I complete my daily walk to the eepney stop. It helps to prepare me for the long and exhausting day ahead. I am not a morning person, but walking makes me look forward to every morning now.

True, I have had a relatively smooth life compared to others, but my morning walk is a constant reminder that I haven't really gone far from where I was six years ago. The achievements I chalked up made my parents proud, but they have not been enough to satisfy my proud self. I crave for more-more experience, more pain, more lessons, more life I don't want to get stuck in the usual hell of the working class and the unsatisfied people. I want to explore the world and know more about myself: what I want to achieve in life, where I am going and when I will stop searching. I want to prove that when you walk farther from home, you move clos-

I want to walk farther than the usual trail. I want to walk around the world and think about other things than the shacks of beggars, the long line of pedicabs and the burns hanging out in some corners. I want to discover other shacks, other kinds of transportation and other types of burns all over the world. But sadly, the short distance I have to walk every day may just be all the waiking I will have for now. Still, no one knows where my walks in the future will take me. But think I will keep following what the whiskey ad says: Keep walking!

Dhesa Marie Aguilar, 21, is a production manager in a small outfit that produces medical programs for a local television network.

Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma: Beloved 'ingrata'

TO HONOR JUSTICE CECILIA MUNOZ-PALMA (a fellow Scholastican), who passed away at 92 two days ago, i re-edited the piece I wrote in 2001 when she launched her book, "The Murror of My

Ingrata. That was how Muñoz-Palma had been harshly called by a high government official. Ingrate. Ungrateful, The Spanish word reeks of contempt and condescension. You do not bite the hand that fed you

It sounds even harsher in Filipino: walang utang na loob. A person who receives help or is accorded honors, even if she deserves them, is presumed deeply indebted and when the time comes, is expected to stand by the favor- or honor-giver. Only the brave in our culture would dare go against this onerous unwritten contract

But we are not wanting in brave and debt-defying civil servants, one of whom was Muñoz-Paima, the first woman to sit in the Supreme Court (1973-1978). Although the appointing power in her case happened to be a dictator, a.k.a. Ferdinand E. Marcos, she showed him and the sycophants that she owed him nothing. She owed only God and the Filipino people whom she had sworn to serve. By defying expectations and pursuing the rule of law as her conscience dictated, all the more it was evident that this gentle and soft-spoken Batangueña was destined to ait above the throng.

Well, ingrate because as an associate justice speaking before her peers and members of the bar on the occasion of Law Day, she pleaded for the return of the rule of law. That was in 1975, the third year of martial rule, and the lady told her audience: "We shall be judged by history ... not by what we want to do and can't, (but) by what we ought to do and don't."

For her guts, she received a five-minute standing ovation. But Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos was neither pleased nor amused. He remained seated. Ingrata, he called her.

She took that as a compliment, a badge of

Ingrata because she wrote a dissenting opinion

HUMAN



on the habeas corpus case of former senator and pationalist Jose Ŵ Diokno. Her opinion would have had embarrassed Marcos, but before it could be presented, it was "frustrated." Muñoz-Palma's written opinion (that had leaked) jumped the gun on the other justices and Marcos, too, and paved the way for the release of Diokno who had been detained for more than 700 days without charges.

Muñoz-Palma called the Diokno case her baptism of fire. And although her dissenting opinion did not see the full light of day as the habeas corpus petition became moot and academic with Diokno's sudden release, it illumined the legal path during those dark and dreadful days.

Muñoz-Palma's "frustrated dissenting opinion" could be read in full in her book, "The Mirror of My Soul: Selected Decisions, Opinions, Speeches and Writings," (883 pages!) which she gave away for free on the occasion of the Supreme Court's 100th anniversary. Her opinion on the Dioknocase (with which Associate Justice Calisto Zaldivar concurred) is simple enough for nonlawyers, but it emits a luminous glow if read in the context of those dark years.

She ended that opinion by defending woman power thus. "In closing, I am bothered by the thought that some of my colleagues may attribute my approach to Diokno's petition to my being a woman, and I may even be accused of allowing my emotions to overpower my reason. If there is such an assumption, I would say that it is incorrect. However, if it is indeed true that my being a woman led me to take this stand ... then I am happy and proud that I was born a woman."

Revisiting Edsa

More riveting is the intro to that case where Muñoz-Palma describes how she wrote it while in hiding and how she later cloistered herself among the Benedictines of St. Scholastica's College, her alma mater. (She was valedictorian of H.S. Class of '31, after which she went to the University of the Phillippines for law studies. She passed the bar in 1937) If at all she gave in to a colleague who knew what she was up to, it was to erase the words

"arbitrary and oppressive" in her dissension There was life after the Supreme Court Muñoz-Palma led the anti-Marcos opposition and ran in the 1984 Batasan Pambansa elections and won by a landshide. Her battle cry: "One Marcos cannot stop us all." She later became the president of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution. She headed the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office where she again displayed her being ingrate when she did not cover up for the alleged wrongdoing of the president

who appointed her. "The Mirror of My Soul" packs courage. Said the late Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan: "I can still see her standing on the floor of the Batasan... No one can equal the passion with which she roug Amendment No. 6-that curse of presidential usurpation of legislative powers. She was also one of the few among us who dared file articles of impeachment against the then head of government."

Muñoz-Palma tells readers that they "will not find literary gems or grandiose or loftily-worded judicial and legal pronouncements" in her book, only "plain words ... thoughts and ideas and principles emanating from my conscience and reason on faith, truth, Justice, freedom and the Rule of Law."

The rule of law-these words were like her mantra. Her "A Plea for the Rule of Law" that earned her the ingrata label (and where she also said much about womenhood) is a good read. But one can't miss the spiritual theme that also runs through her writing. Indeed, this woman always hearkened to a higher power, a higher law.

Sand feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

THIS MONTH BEGINS THE JOURNEY TO THE 20th anniversary of the Edsa Revolution. An entire generation has grown up not knowing what it was like to be thrilled by the impact of Cory Aquino's victory statement on Feb. 8, 1986.

The Marcos spell is broken. The myth of his invincible machine has been shattered. Against his guns, against his goons, and against his gold, the Pilipino people have prevailed. They have made their cry of freedom and justice heard above the torrent of hes and threats

"A painful price has been paid. Many have been hurt, I am sad to report, and some have died. Let us hope and pray that the tragic reports we have heard are the final price our people must pay for freedom. They have well earned it.

"Nothing can take our victory from us No power can pry from our hands the freedom we have won this day

"In 1972, our country was taken from us by force. in the dead of riight and kept from us by deception. We became exiles in our own land. Now we have our country back. And it is fitting that, as we lost it In darkness, we have regained it in the night.

"We are home again, in a country we can once more call, our own. We have won back our country and won it with bravery, sacrifice, honor, and distinction. This night marks our true independence We owe no one for our freedom but ourselves.

"It is not for me to thank the Filipino people; it is for all of us to welcome ourselves home.

Mabuhay ang Pilipino." When the 10th anniversary of Edsa came and , went, wistful sadness seems to have engulfed peopie: so wonderful, yet so brief, was the Edsa era. And today, 20 years after, what do we see? The middle class and business, which applauded and tolerated the dictatorship as long as their pocketbooks continued to grow, have reverted to the cynleism which led them to scorn all kinds of politics for 11 years. Until Ninoy was killed and profits plunged, killing any pretenses on the part of these people that politics could be avoided altogether. Suddenly their indignation was aroused, bringing to mind a saving by Herhert Hoover, arch-apostle

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

of capitalism: Free speech does not live many hours after free industry and free commerce die."

With the flight of Dewey Dee in 1981, and the declaration of bankruptcy of the government in 1983, it became obvious that free commerce had ceased to be, and the middle discovered that free speech, the right to criticize leaders, was something they missed

For many years, until their format became obsolete, around Edsa time I would exhume two Betamax tapes, which were originally surreptitiously given to us shortly after Ninoy's funeral. One is of the Japanese television coverage on Ninoy, the other is of a documentary of Ninoy's funeral, composed of footage taken by foreign correspondents. What has always haunted me are the attempts of foreign journalists to get statements from people who stood by the side of the road to watch Ninoy's funeral cortege pass. These people would only shake their heads when asked to talk, except for one man who said, "It's enough for us to stand here."

How do you recapture the atmosphere of fear, of conditioned obedience, which weighed heavily on ordinary people then? It was a time when simply standing by the road was an act of rebellion and bravery. From this small act of independence, the marching would take off, the yellow confetti would rain down on the heads of middle-ranking executives and then their bosses. A rising tide of yellow kitselt would soon sweep away the Queen of Kitsch herself, and her husband, whose evacuation from Malacañang would leave open to the first ruffians who entered it evidence of another evacuation altogether—adult diapers in the sancturn sanctorum of the dictator. After everyone,

that is, would converge on a major avenue and mount a massive sit-in which scandalized the Left because of the audacity with which the middle classes had expropriated their methods

Much of the yellow brick road that led to Edsa was fun, accompanied by Au-Arihan drums. I remember on New Year's Eve 1986, the last New Year under Marcos. The air was shattered by a barrage of firecrackers that was simply unprecedented. It was as if everyone had gotten it into their heads to demonstrate as clearly as possible that they didn't care a whit for the government's firecracker ban. Of course, the next new year was the quietest, because everyone listened to their new President. The year after wasn't quiet anymore, and the year after that was quiet because of Gringo. Only this New Year was fairly quiet again, because life is hard once more.

The middle class joined midway a fight that had been waged by dedicated people opposed to the dictatorship on principle. They managed to wrest control of the rhetoric and propaganda methods from those who had been battling Marcos in the streets during the First Quarter Storm; and they exulted in victory as the Left grumbled about having missed the bus of history. The proprietary sense the middle class and their political arm, civil society, felt with regard to People Power led to the second Edsa in 2001, but even more so than they did after 1986, power went to their heads, and it all came crashing painfully down mere months after those heady January days, when the third, unofficial Edsa took place.

At that point, it was proven that neither civil society nor the middle class possessed the credibility or the skill to mobilize the many, in fact, they undermined a counter-revolt, which only failed because it was led by Marcos relics who had failed to preserve the Marcoses in 1986.

So have we come full circle? Back to 1972, when, just as it was after 1986, middle forces balked at moving ahead. No wonder everyone is depressed. Are we conditioning ourselves for a time when standing on the side of the road will again be an act of bravery in itself?

Love and the Tomcat

Sbelley Jo R. Saracin

I LOVE MY TOMCAT IT'S ONE OF MY MOST PRECIOUS possessions, different from all the other items I have collected over the course of 24 years

Since childhood, I have collected trinkets of various kinds: stuffed animals to which I give names, wooden and ceramic sculptures given by close friends, letters from old flames, old coins from globetrotter friends and family members, bills, toys and other memorabilia

When I began my self-discovery phase in high school and decided that my personality most resembled dolphins, I collected things of all shapes and sizes: bottle openers, a bath mat, curtains, frames, pen and cell-phone holders, jars, earrings, pens and what-have-you. As I grew up, my friends gave me all sorts of tokens. None was as precious as my Tomcat.

My Tomcat is a replica on a 1/100 scale of an F-14 fighter prane, the one used by Tom Cruise in the hit movie, "Top Gun." It was the fastest, most advanced and most efficient fighter of its time. With its movable wings swept backwards, it can streak through the air at more than 1,500 mph, two and a half times faster than the speed of sound. And mine is a beautiful, streamlined replica of the fighter jet, with gray wings and the minutest details.

It came in a slim brown box, filled with green Styrofoam filling, and with a letter carefully taped beneath the box lid The Tomcat was given with a sheepish, yet excited grin, and as I received it, I was told to flip it over gingerly. Thus was I introduced to the F-14 Tomcat.

The Tomcat was both a birthday and a Christmas gift, given to me two years ago on the night of Dec. 16. In excitement over this new toy, I accidentally broke off one of its fragile wheels that very same might.

When I sadly informed the giver, he immediately restored the wheel to its rightful place

For almost a year since its "birth," the Tomcat has been posted at my bedside. Later it acquired a "brother," an F-22 Raptor. I have been cleaning it regularly, brushing dust and smudges off its whitewashed body and moving it among my personal belongings.

Every time I clean it, I realize the Tomcar's utter fragility. I always have to hold it with light fingers as I wipe its body with a soft, clean cloth. Its wheels, tiny and delicate, are about as small as the nail on my pinkle. Still I end up taking off one of the wheels with a quick, accidental flick of my finger very often.

Today as I was cleaning it, the tiny black front wheel again came off, I suppressed a tear as I gingerly glued the piece back with the special adhesive that came with the Raptor, all the while thinking how this tiny toy was symbolic of love: Pragile, Precious, Mendable, Lasting.

Because no matter how many times I break off a piece of my Tomcat, no matter how old and dusty it gets, and no matter how much its paint-on details fade, it continues to be precious to me, I will always wipe it clean. I will always know that it is my F-14. I will always look for the special glue that will keep as parts together, I will always hold it with tender, nimble fingers. I will always remember that it means love.

Even if I no longer put it on display and just keep it in a box, I will always, always cherish my fighter friend.

Shelley Jo R. Saracin, 25, is a staff writer at the Asian Semi-

nary of Christian Ministries.

OPINION

Capturing the spirit of New Year

you find it strange that what's supposed to be new is feeling like an old, stale thing repeated so many times ad nauseam, in an almost mind ess routine every year?

That's what is likely to happen if we are not careful. We can harden in our ways, get trapped in our complacency, imprisoned in our ideas, ready quite dead although we can manage to look alive and even lively.

Yes, we are quite capable of these things. We are good at hiding and disguising what is inside us. We can go formal, without the substance, often not knowing that this is very toxic to our soul

Thus, we can drown ourselves in sounds, sights and spirits, all meant to arouse the senses while putting the soul to sleep.

We can go through the routine of resolution malong, if only to pacify for a while our spiritual side that cannot be totally shot off.

But the true spirit of the New Year is somewhere else it hes in the recognition that in this life, we will always need constant renew-

Agustin's Dec. 21, 2005 commn

which touched again on the pro-

jects of the Peace & Equity Founda-

tion (PEF) The information gaps

gave us a chance to further report

(March 2004) focused on village-

based technologies for vacuum-

drying and frying of tropical

fruits. This technology is not yet

readily accessible in the country.

Thus, the acquisition of the tech-

nology would potentially benefit

small farmers, particularly in

in May 2005 familiarized seven

participants on commercial scale

sustainable and organic agricul-

ture. The learning from the study

trip will be shared with and ap-

pued by farmers in Cotabato,

Benguet Negros Occidental and

Nueva Vizcaya, who have seen a

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong trip

Cotabato, Davao and Buildnon

The exposure trip to Vietnam

to begin and begin again.

It's the recognition that is always a fruit of God's grace It's a recognition that the renewal experted is far from being merely physical or materias. It has to be sparitual

We need to understand the phenomenon called mertia, which often spoils our efforts to renew our- except to one's perdition. It's viselves genuinely. In the physical world, mertia is easily observable It means no variation in things. What is still should remain still. What is moving should remain moving. And this should not be appried to our rife.

In our spiritual life, things appear to be always moving. What would constitute mertia is when that motion goes on its own, detached from God who shows the way, sets the pace and makes everything new.

This is what happens in obsession, a repet tion of acts driven by a kind of blindness, narrow-mindedness, rigidity, self-righteousness, bitter zeal, seif induigence, attachment, etc. It differs essen-

To date, farmers' training on

sustainable agriculture by the

Multisectora, Alcance for Devel-

opment in Negros Occidenta, have

intensified, while the vacuum-fry-

ing technology has been set up to

benefit more than 100 rural

households of the Maligo Multi-

purpose Cooperative in Min-

PEF's study-exposure trips pro-

vided farmers and community de-

velopment workers with practica.

knowledge on different technolo-

gies in sustainable agriculture and

micro-enterprise development.

The participants were selected

based on their capacity to echo or

transfer what they learn from

those trips to the organizations

they represent or work with Ad-

vanced knowledge and experi-

ence in farming and enterprise de-

velopment were deemed essential

Ating kabalitaan

Cheri Mercado

to ensure maximum learning

Records may be scrutinized by anybody

THIS IS IN REACTION TO VICTOR pines and abroad.

IT'S AGAIN A NEW YEAR. DON'T al, that life-long process of having thally from virtue which also involves some repetition of acts, because virtue is never bland, rigid and all that But virtue first of all is always reasonable and imbued with charity, because it starts and ends with God

Not so obsession. While it can spur a person to constant motion, it's a motion that goes nowhere cious, addictive and enslaving

Virtue builds a person up lt perfects him, much in the way expressed by St Peter in his second

"Strive diligently to supply your faith with virtue, your virtue with knowledge, your knowledge with self-control, your self-control with patience, your patience with piety, your piery with fraternal love, your fraternal love with charity."

This is what we have to understand very well if we want to capture the true spirit of the New Year.

Happy New Year to all! FR. ROY CIMAGALA. chaptain, Center for Industrial Technology and Enterprise, Talamban, Cebu City

the PEF information ad that came

out in this newspaper last Dec 19

Thus ad listed our current projects

We would like to publish a list of

our projects at least once a year so

the public or interest groups can

provide us feedback, positive or

We have supported projects

with the Caucus of Development

NGO Networks (CODE NGO),

which comprises 10 NGO net-

works and peoples organ zahons

in the country, with a combined

membership of over 2 000. It is

CODE NGO's responsibility to im-

plement these projects that will

benefit the poor sectors and com-

Our records are open for scruti-

ny Anybody interested can visit

our website at www.peacefdn.org

and look at the lists of projects and

-VERONICA R VILLAVICENCIO,

Peace and Equity Foundation,

executive director,

audited financial statements

negative, on these projects.



Gov't retirees forced to spend cheerless Xmas

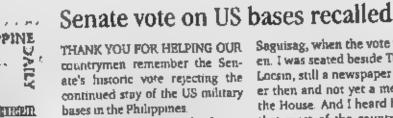
THIS REFERS TO THE VERY late delivery of GSIS pensioners' checks here in the Caraga region. More specifically, I amtaking off from the case of my sister, Erlinda Mantilla, a retired school teacher who has been waiting for her December pension check and bonus Most of the old, retired teachers like her are in a similar situation They have been told that their checks are still being processed ın Manıla

GSIS pensioners should be properly advised why they were not able to receive their bonus checks on time. The Government Service Insurance System has spent millions, billions perhaps, to upgrade its service, and yet, many pensioners still suffer not only from its inefficiency but also from the discourteous behavior of its

As an agency that services mostly old, retired government employees, many of whom are already hard of hearing or slow to comprehend instructions, the GSIS should take the extra mile of extending special care and patience to service their customers, and not just turn them away with utmost disdain After all, these teachers had paid their GSI5 premiums year after year in times

Spending the holidays without the benefit of their Christmas bonus, these pensioners have become such a sorry, pitiful sight. We long for the day when the GSIS will give us, its members and beneficiaries what is due to us-kind, efficient, courteous

-CHONA M. MANTULLA, 734 C.P. Tan St., Buenavista, Agusan del Norte,



bases in the Philippines. However, I wish to clarify two of the facts mentioned in the arti-

cle by Tony S. Bergonia last Jan. First, it was not former Sen. Jose W. Diokno but former Sen.

Lorenzo M. Tañada, who rose from his wheelchair to cheer when then Senate President Jovito Salongs announced the 12-11 vote rejecting the treaty. Second, Nikk Coseteng was

still a member of the House of Representatives, and not yet a senator, when she starred with Joseph Estrada in "Sa Kuko ng Ag-

I was at the Senate lobby, being a staff member of then Sen. Rene

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR Seguisag, when the vote was taken. I was seated beside Teddyboy Locsin, still a newspaper publisher then and not yet a member of the House. And I heard him quip that most of the country's communists were in the Senate gallery at the time, if the military cared to know.

incidentally, contrary to what those who favored the retention of the bases had warned, the Philippines did not meet its doom when the Americans puned out their bases. The rejection of a new treaty even allowed Richard Gordon, who was probases, to prove that the Finpinos can survive the absence of US military bases.

-ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ, 420 Gov. A. Pascual St., San Jose, Navotas, Metro Manila

Police brass applying superficial solution to a very serious problem

PLASTERING THE NOZZLES OF heard of policemen firing guns policemen's service firearms every Christmas or New Year's Eve rethose in rural areas, may find it ef-

Our pouce don't have to "plaster" their service firearms if they have self-discipine even when they're drunk. Top police officials don't have to hold indiculous annual photo ops showing "plastered" guns.

during Christmas or New Year's Eve with or without plasters on them? How many persons have been tortured by the police even though our 1987 Constitution

Short-term solutions have acknowledges this problem, inspeak of the truth as "rerrorist or destabilizers," we won't have gentime reforms in our police system. There will only be more guns to put plaster on.

-- DANTLO REYES, 16 Ground Floor, Nam Kau, Kak Yin Village, Tai Wai, New Territories, Hong Kong, SAR

problem. Top police officials, even strictly prohibits it?

flects how ridiculous our police system is. Absolutely it is a superficial solution to a deep-rooted fective but it's funny. If we are to faned to address the roots of pothink of it, our police officials have her abuse. Unless the government completely failed to find an effective long term solution to police stead of labeling its critics who abuse other than plasters. Is it a shame or not?

How many stones have we

Tuwing Huwebes

Dito lang sa

Erratum

In Antonio J. Montalvan II's column last Monday, one sentence was wrongly rephrased in the process of editing to make it appear as if the Special Care for Special Children had hired a caregiver and a nursing assistant. The project's ione employee performs

Also Lourd Ostique, curator of Museo de Oro, is a he, not a



NOUIRER Southern Luzon Bureau Chief Florence G. Solmirano

'Judges walk with one foot on the grave'

By Marlon Ramos Bacoor, Cavite

T MAY TAKE A WHILE BEFORE MARIBETH GINGOYON REsumes her early morning jogs on weekends. Maribeth, 51, has L lost her favorite jogging partner—her husband, Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon-who was felled by four assassins' bullets a few hours after taking their usual run on New Year's Eve.

Henrick, a fitness buff, had been her the gunman even checked the logbook of "physical fitness partner" for more than the establishment to make sure that his 30 years, she said.

For years, jogging around their neighborhood at Soldiers' Hills Village In Barangay Molino in Bacoor, Cavite, had been their routine on weekends and whenever her husband's busy schedule allowed them to, she said. "He liked to jog and go to the gym after work,"

Maribeth had earlier shunned media interviews, refusing to talk about the circumstances of Henrick's fate. She agreed to talk to this writer for a few minutes during the wake of her husband in their house on Jan. 3, moments before police presented the judge's alleged murderer

Gingoyon's remains will be flown to his hometown in Cebu City today and will be cremated on Sunday. He left a wife, four daughters-Hazel, 30; Hyacinth, 27; Henriette, 20; and Henrika, 10-and a son, Henrick Martin Dion, 13.

Nothing unusual

Maribeth said she noticed nothing unusual the day her husband was attacked some 25 meters from their house.

"We ate breakfast, logged around the subdivision and went home afterwards at about 6:30 a.m. He then took a nap. When he woke up at 10:30 a.m., he told me he would just go to the gym," she

The gym, where Gingoyon frequented for years, is just 50 meters away from their house. His children said their father usually went there at around 7 p.m. on weekdays

Witnesses said a man had been snooping around the place moments before

target was inside the gym.

Maribeth said she still could not face the reality that the man she had spent thousands of miles jogging around is now

"He was kind, wala siyang kapalit (he is irreplaceable)," she said, holding back

She said the presence of friends and relatives at the wake was what kept her from crying and thinking about the family's uncertain future.

Dangerous profession

In the entire 30 years of being in the legal profession as a lawyer, prosecutor and judge, Gingayon never discussed the cases he was handling with his family. Nor did he tell them about threats on his life, Maribeth said.

But he told her that being a judge "is a dangerous profession."

"He used to tell me that judges walk with one foot on the grave. He said receiving threats was just normal for judges," she related.

Maribeth said her husband was never bothered after handing down the decision on the Philippine International Air Terminal Corp. (Piatco) case. He ruled that the national government must pay \$63 million to Piatco for taking over the mothballed Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport

The recent decision of the Supreme Court upholding his decision has "vindicated him," she said

When asked if she knew that Gingoyon had accused the prime suspect, Semor Henrick was shot and killed. Police said. Supt. Manuel Barcena, of being behind. taught them to value family ties.



PNP cluef Director General Arturo Lomibao talks to the children of the late Judge Henrick Gingoyon during his wake in Beccor, Cavite.

the shooting of their house almost three years ago, she said she knew that her husband had filed an affidavit with the National Bureau of Investigation.

But she declined to comment when asked if the incident had something to do with the killing of her husband.

Barcena has denied involvement in the

Cool dad

Gingoyon's children said they would be surely missing "the perfect and coolest dad one could ever have."

"I may be biased, but he was really perfect a dad. He was not just a father, he was also a friend to us," Hazel said, sobbing.

Seeing her father inside the coffin is a surreal scene for them, she said. "We still could not accept [his tragic death]," she

Henriette said their father was very supportive of their decisions and ambi-She said their close ties did not dis-

suade Gingoyon from agreeing to her and her sister Hazel's plan to move to the United States after her graduation in Another sister, Hyacoth, is now in the

US working in a Los Angeles firm. Since Gingoyon's death, the family has had constant communication with Hyacinth through the Internet.

Despite being a disciplinarian, Gingoyon always reached out to al, his children Henriette said it was their father who

Hazel said it was their closeness that free of charge. kept her from leaving their house and setthing down.

Frugality

Henriette said her father's frugality was the one thing that she admired most in him. Despite their relative affluence, their father taught them the value of saving money, she said.

"Actually, pareho sila ni (they are similar) Mommy. They showed us the importance of valuing hard-earned money," she

Henriette added that her father even preferred bringing home-cooked food to the office rather than spending money in some fancy restaurants.

Despite having been promoted as a regional trial court judge of one of the biggest cities in the country, Gingoyon had remained unassuming, she said.

Only a few in the neighborhood knew that he was already a judge, Henriette said. Most of them addressed him as "At-

"But it was OK with him," she said. One of the neighbors said she was a witness to Gingoyon's humility.

"He would usually greet us and the other neighbors. Naglalakad lang siya dito tulad ng ibang simpleng tao. Kaya nagulat kami sa nangyari sa kanya (He would just walk around here like other simple ple. So we were shocked at what happened to him)," the neighbor said.

Henriette said her father also gave legal services and advice to the community

He made them understand the importance of respecting other people, especially those who have less in life.

Kind boss

Jonathan Orlino, 33, was a witness to how the slain judge valued ordinary peo-

Working as a utility man in Gingoyon's office for three years, Orlino said he felt like he lost a father and defender.

"Despite his stature, he never lookeddown at us. We were all equal for him. He was really kind. I cannot even remember hum getting angry at any of his staff members," he said.

He described Gingoyon as "a hands-on boss." The judge always saw to it that he attended the monthly meeting with his staff, he said.

Orlino remembered how, in one of those meetings, Gingoyon reminded'; them that maintaining cleanliness in the office was not just a utility man's job but that of the entire staff, including the

Orlino likewise described his boss as a fun-loving person who was always ready to lend a helping hand.

Hazel said they planned to bring backtheir father's cremated remains to their. house in Baccor

"My father used to tell us how he loved! this house and how he loved to stay here... So we will bring him back to the house which he referred to as a labor of love,".

Corruption drives construction exec back to writing

By Gli Francis G. Arevalo Oas, Albay

🖜 OR 33 YEARS, HE headed construction projects for Philrock Inc. of the # Yuchengco Group of Companies. A civil engineer by profession, he in had served as business development manager, construction manager, marketing manager, and /// eventually, vice president of the company.

Rampant corruption in private and public works, however, made Abdon "Jun" Balde Jr., 59, decide to quit his job and retire in September 1999 to devote his time to his first love-writing.

This social evil is very evident in his first novel, "Sa Kagubatan ng Isang Lungsod (In the Forest of A City)," the only nominated finalist in Filipino fiction in the September 2002 National Book Award

Unraveling events that happened in over 20 years, the book dwells on an ancient tragedy in a modern setting of Ill-fated lives, the government.

"Many readers are wondering why I had to write about this kind of theme that has been happening since time immemorial, but ines and perplexities give one a new perspective, especially of what's going on in our country today-from 'jueteng' payoffs to other scandals," Balde sald.

Rampant corruption in the bureaucracy and the declining

EUROPP'S 155000 LONGER LECTION RIALIO nota Counde S. Teorfori - VPNL

AWARD-WINNING author Abdon "Jun" Baide jr. poses beside posters of world-renowned artists. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

interest of the new generation in Filipino culture and literature today have again enlivened the writer in him.

National artist Virgilio S. Almario hails Balde as a new disdoomed love and corruption in covery in Philippine literature Multi-awarded poet Rebecca Añonuevo admires his unique works for their artful imagination and simplicity.

Other prominent writers in based on experience, its complex- the country consider him a late

> Some of Balde's peers consider his decision to retire as an incomprehensible career shift. But his becoming a consistent nominee and awardee has made a difference, especially at a time and fellow writers.

when many Filipino readers and moviegoers are drawn more to Harry Potter, "Lord of the Rings," Ragnarok and Marvel Comics than their very own literary

Books

Balde's first short story, "Milagro Sa Aming Nayon," was published in Liwayway magazine in 1961. It was followed in 1968 by "Kuwento ng Isang Pag-ibig," which is now included in college textbooks.

His first book, published in September 2001, was "Mga Pangarap at Pangitain," a collection of 14 short stories written over four decades. It instantly received recognition from critics

One of his friends, Joseph Briones, a writer based in Legazpi City, said Balde had been very supportive of the initiatives of few writers and scholars in the region to publish, preserve and further study the culture, arts and literature in the different historical sites in Albay.

Baide's fourth book, "Hunyango sa Bato," a novel which won the 2005 Juan C. Laya Award for Book of the Year, is also about corruption in the construction industry and irregularities in the execution of public works.

Though the recurring theme has been considered both popular and infamous nowadays, the book became a lut, Aside from praises and awards his book has received, Balde has made a

new dimension in his style and suncerity in his messages through his characters that anyone can easily identify with or

But "Sa Kagubatan ng Isang Lungsod" and "Hunyango sa Bato" are very much different from why it's better to write in our his 2003 National Book awardee "Ma'yong," a collection of Filipino short stories based on the legends and the surroundings of Mayon Volcano; "Supay," the 2003 Carlos Palanca awardee for short story; and the forthcoming "Sa Lupain ng Ibalong," the Bicol epic in novel form, in which he divulged the forgotten significance of the history, culture and literature of his own region.

As a writer, Balde said he wanted to put a modern touch to the folklore that the country had for the young generation to read and research. He expressed happiness that he was among those making efforts to remind the young to "please, please, pick it up and read it for your ancestors' sakel"

He stressed that the success of the "Lord of the Rangs" by J.R.R. Tolkien and "Harry Potter" by JK Rowling is but one good exam-

Native tongue

Balde recalled that he used English as a medium of his literary and other writings from 1970 to 1999.

But many of his friends have persuaded him to write in Filipino for the majority of the readers still love to read Filipino books, and using the medium is the only way that his future work will be understood.

Besides, according to him,

breakthrough by providing a many writers that have been awarded the Nobel Prize for literature writing and publishing are using their own languages but only translated in English

"Poreigners are not familiar with our Filipino-American style of ideoms and metaphors. That's own dialect and let American or British experts translate it in their own language," Balde said. After publishing four books

since 2001 and receiving numered to ous awards, he's now. write in his native tong col-Oasnon. Born in Barangay Busac, Oas, Albay, Balde now stays in Manila

with his family but often comes home to visit historical places and meet old pals. He started to write "rawitdawit" (Bicol poems) and "ngsik" (satirical lines) only last year, but all of his pieces were

published only in the region. "I decided to write in Finpino for I do believe that the majority of readers still love the local setting and the mood that is totally of Filipino character, But I have come to a point where I'm looking for the mood and character that speak of my native town,"

Baide said. The Bicol-Oasnon is one of the many Bicol languages that are seemingly difficult to use. For Balde, however, this is the only way to convey stories from his

region. Local writers, historians and young researchers have been inspired by his decision, as the common call now is to encourage local governments and state universities and colleges to preserve local culture as new avenues are provided to popularize it.

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Local execs back 'no-el' proposal

OZAMIZ CITY-LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFI-'cials expressed support for a proposal made by the Consultative Commission to postpone the holding of elections next year as the country shifts to a parliamentary form of government.

The Umon of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), a group of the country's mayors and govemors, said in a statement that postponing next year's elections would have more benefits for the The same sentiment prevails in

Lawyer Afredo Buseco, an Iligan city legislator and vice president of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL), said the prospect of automatic term extension until

2010 is the principal come-on of the proposal for local elective of-

Buseco said they are in favor of Charter change because of such a "bargam."

A Misamis Occidental councilor, who asked not to be named, said the proposal "hits at the very interest of local politicians-political survival

"Admittedly, it is a daunting task to submit oneself for reciection. No matter how winnable one is, one has to spend money

tocal legislator said.

Coop-Nattco party-list Rep. Gialiermo Cua, who visited nearby Tangub City recently, said elected officials will have longer time to implement projects when the Constitution is amended, obviously referring to the automatic term extension if the "no-el" transitory provision is adopted.

Misamis Occidental Rep. Herminia Ramiro described the proposed scrapping of the 2007 elections as "a cost-saving measure"

and worry about probability," the because the national government Jennifer Tan of Tangub. can forego spending as much as P8 billion if the elections are postponed until 2010.

Ramiro said such a "break" can also provide a "healing period" for Filipinos who have seen so much political wrangling lately.

Apart from Rammo, Misamis Occidental politicians known to be Charter change advocates include Rep. Erme Clarete, Gov. Loreto Ocampos, city mayors Jorge Almonte of Oroquieta, Reynaido Parojinog of Ozamiz and

2 boys killed in explosion

Mateo Magueta, Escalante police chief. 2 survive sea mishap

cause his banca had no lights

P i .8M robbery

The proposed no-el transitory provision was recommended by the ConCom to entice officials to back the package of proposals it drew up to amend the 1987 Charter.

But In Davao City, ConCom member Rey Magno Teves said the proposal will face an uphill climb in terms of public approval.

"I am positive it (referring to no-el) will have difficulty in getting public approval," Teves said.

Ryan D. Rosauro and Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Jhunnez Napaliscan, PDI Visayas Bureau

ROUNDUP

CEBU CITY—A fisherman and his 14-year-old daughter survived after a passenger vessel hit their motorized boat while they were fishing off Mactan Channel in Cebu on Dec. 29. Juanito Lipaopao, 50, and daughter Charlotte, both from Sitio Paradise, Lood, Mandaue City, were able to swim back to the shore of Barangay Loop after MV Ormod Star owned by Roble Shipping, which had just left the Cebu port for Hilongos, Southern Leyle, rammed and destroyed their boat at around 10.30 p.m. Chief Petty Officer Lemuel Alquiza, Cebu Coast Guard deputy station commander, said Lipaopao could be faulted for the incident be-

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Ten suspected members of a highway robbery syndicate held up the accountant of a spa in Batangas and took the salary of its employees worth P1 8 million in Lips City on Thursday Catabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said Arvin Manzano accountant of The Farm at San Ben to, a well-known spa and wellness center in Lipa City, and his staller Lourdes Magnaye, were on board a Toyota Ace van to deliver the salaries of their employees when the suspects, riding in five motorcycles, blocked their path along a road in Barangay Tipakan at around noon. At least four of the suspects forced open the doors of the victim's car. Verzosa said the suspects ordered Manzano at gunpoint to hand them the bag containing the money. The suspects also ransacked the personal balongings of the victims then

TWO BROTHERS aged 14 and 15 were killed and their mother and two younger sisters were seriously injured when a grenade that the boys dug up while tilling their farm exploded at around 12.45 p.m. yesterday in Sitio Samplinit 2, Barangay Libertad, Escalante City, Negros Occidental. Killed in the explosion were Allan Catipay, 15, and his brother Alano, 14, said insp



By Ma. Diosa Labista

ILOILO CITY-FORTY EXAMI-

nees from Iloulo who took the

nursing board examinations in

December are asking the Profes-

nonal Regulation Commission

(PRC) to release the test results it

had withheid due to alleged over-

loading of academic courses and

other discrepancies in their

The examinees were among

the 500 graduates of West Negros

PDI Visayas Bureau

records.

Volunteers carry sades of sand to areas in Calapan City which suffered from heavy flooding due to record rainfall, among other factors.

40 nursing board examinees demand test results

who took the exams last Dec 3 board results

and 4. They are professionals

who are taking nursing as their

said to be from WNC, were with-

held by PRC. It was not known

whether they have passed or

faned the nursing board exami-

Lawyer Nelia Jesusa Lingaya-

Gonzales, herself one of the ex-

spokesperson, said PRC has the

The test results of 604 exami-

nees, at least haif of whom were said

"second course."

aminees and

sped off toward San Jose Batangas Marion Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau Chinese held for firecrackers

LUCENA CITY-Police arrested a Chinese national while selling firecrackers without permits. Lucena police chief Senior Supt. Reuban Theodore Sindac said concerned citizens upped them off on Rolly Tan 31, owner of Jackson Store located in Barangay 6, this city, for likegal distributton of firecrackers. In the raid on Wednesday police confiscated several boxes of assorted firecrackers worth several thousands of pesos Further investigation also showed



that the suspect was not able to produce permits for his firecracker business in December 2004, firecrackers started a huge fire in this city that killed more than 20 people and destroyed mallons of pesos in property. Last year, the city government designated an unused public cemetery in the outstorts of the city as firecracker buying area.

Deltin T Mallari, Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Food for work

CITY OF CALAPAN—Civil society groups of Calapan City, through the Oriental Mindoro PO-NGO Network (OrNet) are raising P100,000 for a food-forwork program supporting sandbagging activities in the Bucayao River here. From Dec. 28-31, staff members of the National Commission on indigenous People Mangyan Mission and Kapulungan Para sa Lupaing Nihung provided medical and food packages to 25 Bangon and Buhid Mangyans. The Cibac party-list group. Holy Spirit Sisters and Assist Foundation donated rice, medicines and assorted goods

Madonna T. Virota, POI Southern Luzon Bureau

Meningo case in Laguna

CALAMBA C: TY-A 2-year-old girl from Victoria, Laguna, s suspected to have died of men ngococcemia at the Laguna Provincial Hospital on Dec. 30 a hospital official said on Monday Dr. Corazon Mendoza, officer in charge of the hospital, said the victim was rushed to the hospital on Friday by his parents. She said the girl had high fever and rashes all over her body, a common symptom of the deadly disease. After a few hours, the girl died of septicemia or infection of the blood. A source told the INourses the girl and his parents went to Victoria town just to loin their relatives in celebrating the New Year. The source said the victim traveled from Bacoor, Cavite where her father works. "While they were traveling, the girl complained of stomach and head aches. She also had fever Her father just let her drink soft drinks, tapos naging ok na 'yung beta " the source told the LAGUIRER.

Marion Ramos, PDI Southern Lozon Bureau

College (WNC) in Bacolod City obligation to release the nursing have academic load of 40 to 46 GMA saves Mt. Province hotel that her father built

also their

By Desiree Caluza PDI Northern Luson Bureau

SAGADA, MT. PROVINCE--PREsident Macapagal-Arroyo has rescued the hotel that her father

built Ms Arroyo, during her visit there on Monday, ordered the Philippine Tourism Authority to relinquish control over the 22room Mt. Data Lodge in Bauko

The PTA closed the hotel on Corazon Aquino and former rebel

lease, along with 11 other hotels and some 40 PTA assets that have not been earning for the past 10

Ms Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, built the Mt Data Lodge in 1962, and a photograph showing a 15year-old Ms Arrayo now hangs

The facility is also a historic site because former President 1987 "sipat" (cessation of hostilities) there that led to the formation of the Cordillera Administra-

"Even those who failed are giv-

en notice with corresponding rat-

ing. We have the right to know

whether we failed or passed," she

Lily Ann Baldago, regional di-

rector of PRC, said a random in-

vestigation of academic records

of WNC nursing graduates

showed that there has been "aca-

demic overloading," or some stu-

dents had taken more academic

Some students were said to

courses than what were allowed.

PTA general manager Robert Dean Barbers issued a termination letter to 11 of the hotel's employees on Dec 9, 2005 It officially closed its doors on Dec 31, according to Dolores Theodore, the lodge's

manager Barbers is implementing a mo Dalog.

New Year's Eve for auctioning or priest Conrado Balweg signed the 2004 resolution of the PTA board that decided to sell off the agency's old assets to invest in new facilities, according to a PTA director.

units "It is impossible that they

can cope with that," said Baida-

go, herself a nurse and a former

dean of the West Visayas State

There were also some prob-

lems in the sequencing of cours-

es, she said. For example, a stu-

dent was enrolled in anatomy

and physiology, a pre-requisite

course, in the last semester.

Baidago also said that another

student took three Related Learn-

ing Experience courses, which

may require hospital work, all at

University College of Nursing.

Theodore said PTA classifies the Mt. Data Lodge as its fifth poorest earning facility with annual losses amounting to P2 mil-

Ms Arroyo flew here on Tuesday to discuss Mt Data Lodge's fate with Mt. Province Gov. Maxi-

Tanauan mayor cries Comelec conspiracy

By Jerome Aning

A GRAND CONSPIRACY WAS how the mayor of Tanauan City, Batangas described a ruling by the Commission on Elections that unseated him and declared his losing opponent as the real winner following recount proceedings that ended last month.

Mayor Alfredo Corona questioned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos SL's designation of Commissioner Rufino Javier to the agency's second division, which mullified Corona's victory over his rival Sonia Aquino in the 2004

élections. Corona, through his counsel Sixto Brillantes, filed motions demanding that Javier withdraw his you and that the division halt the execution of its Dec. 22 decision

unseating Corona.

The mayor called Javier's "absolutely grotesquely indecent and totally un-Christian," as he pointed out that it was impossible for Javier to completely understand the circumstances and ramifications of the case because Javier was designated to the three-member division only two days before the decision came out.

Brillantes added that the very large and substantial numbers of contested and questioned ballots needed to be examined, scrutinized, reviewed, analyzed and appreciated by Javier if a just, fair, equitable and reasonable conclusion and position can be

Javier is surely not Super-

man, much less a Supreme Being, and is undeniably not a genius to be able to suddenly come out with his Sadain-agreeing position in so short a time," Brillantes said.

It would be recalled that the division's third seat has been vacant for some time. Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Romulo Brawner, whom Abalos consecutively designated to fill up the the vacancy, earlier inhibited themselves from the

in its ruling on the election protest, the Comelec said it found that Aquino won by 3,102 votes over Corona. The local election board had Corona winning by 3,741 over

Javier voted in favor of the de-

cision which was penned by Commissioner Mehol Sadam and 465pages long, one of the longest in the agency's history, according to Brillantes.

In contrast, the dissent of the other member of the division, Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr., was 115 pages

Aquino questioned the election results from 342 precincts of the 26 barangays in Tanauan. While Sadain ruled that there were no spurious ballots, Tuason said there were indeed numerous spurious ones because of the absence of Comelec security features.

However, Corona said the decision should remain a tie and elevated to the Comelec en banc, according to the rules.

Medical, dental services

PUERTO PRINCESA CiTY-Doing away with the usual bash he did in his last two birthdays, Palawan 2nd District Rep. Abraham Kahili B. Mitra Instead held a medical-dental mission. Inaugurated projects here and distributed relief goods to flood victims in Aborian town as he celebrated his 38th birthday. A total of 1,211 residenta received free medical and dental services (947 for medical and 264 for dental) in the day-long services ren-



dered by a group of doctors from New Jersey led by Dr. Lorna Bayer. The aclivity was held in the newly renovated Mendoza Park, which Mitra also maugurated with Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedom. After the mauguration, the congressmen went to Barangay Babile to inaugurate a covered court project and have tunch with residents of the barangay, Later in the atternoon, he went to Abarian town, 70 km south of Puerto Princesa City, to distribute reflet goods to residents of five barangays who were victims of floods brought by relentless rains in Decamber.

Geraldiord P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

(In exact order)

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Son not safe with Plinky, says ex-bf

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PORMER LOVER OF FITNESS expert Plinky Recto yesterday said that he took their one-year-old son. to protect the boy from his own mother

"This is not a legal case, but a medical case, particularly in the field of psychiatry," he told the Inquarer in a phone interview yesterday. "She needs psychiatric help," he added, refusing to answer other questions.

He also asked that he not be identified, in line with Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004, ensuring the confidentiality of court records involving cases of violence against women and children.

Under section 44 of RA 9262, "whoever pubushes or causes to be be published, in any format, the name, address, telephone number, school, business address, employer, or other identifying information of a victum or an immediate family member, without the latter's consent, shall be liable to the contempt power of the court."

Recto accused her former lover of kidnapping their son from her house in Mandaluyong City on

THE DEATH OF A FORMER SOL-

dier who had been convicted for

killing opposition politician Be-

nigno Aquino Jr and his alleged

assassin Rolando Galman has

nothing to do with the unresolved

Fr Robert Olaguer, New Bilibid

Prisons (NBP) chaplain, told the

INOUIRER that Manuel Ocenar, the

man who stabbed dead former

Airman First Class Cordova Este-

Jo, told him that the incident was

not connected to the Aquino-Gal-

let others use or dictate to him."

Olaguer said, quoting Ocenar, the

head of the Batang City Jail gang

Estelo was stabbed dead by

Ocenar, a fellow inmate at the

NBP maximum security com-

"He said he was not the type to

man double murder case.

By Jocelyn R. Uy

double murder case.



Tuesday morning.

She vowed to exhaust all legal means to get her son back.

Recto had earlier accused her former lover, a wealthy and influential lawyer in Negros Occidental, of domestic abuse in the Mandaluyong City Regional Trial Court.

But unknown to Recto, he had filed a case against her before the Bago City Regional Trial Court. which granted him temporary custody of their son. The court also issued a 30-day protection or-

'Jail slay not linked to Ninoy case'

der barring Recto from going near him.

Sources from his camp said the father and the boy were still in Metro Manila as of yesterday

The father arrived at the Wack Wack Heights Condominium in Barangay Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City at about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. He was with a court sheriff and at least eight operatives from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region.

He was allowed to enter the exclusive compound after showing the security guards the court order from the Bago City RTC.

The sources said he filed the case against Recto in behalf of their son in Bago City because "the (boy) is a resident of Negros Occidental, where he owns a house."

The father had apparently registered one of his houses under his son's name.

In his petition before the Bago City RTC, the father alleged that Recto was an unfit mother who would always leave their son to the care of the maids. Recto's friends have denied the allegations.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Children raise their hands during the first day of classes after the long Christmes break at Lagro Elementary School in Quezon City.

Jaylo faces illegal detention raps

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MANILA REGIONAL TRIAL court has ordered the arrest of Reynaldo Jaylo in connection with his apprehension of suspected thegal recruiters despite the disbanding of the Presidential Anti-illegal Recruitment Task (Pairtf) that he used to head.

The warrant was issued on Dec. 29, 2005 by Judge Nina Antonio Valenzueia for six counts of senous illegal detention.

Because he was charged with several counts for a capital offense, there would be no ban recommended for the embathim told him that they now fear thed former policeman, accord-

Copies of the warrant had been forwarded to the Department of Justice, the police and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)

"We urge Jaylo, a former officer, to respect the rule of law and to surrender and not to bring this marter to the media. He should to the Villamor Air Base last night face the charges against hun,"

manuel Velasco According to Velasco, the araboution were meant to extort money. He added that if the arrested people paid up, the



charges against them were not filed. Velasco added that he had caned on administrator Rosahnda Baldoz of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) not to allow Jaylo to be involved in the agency's operations

Although the Pairtf was disbanded in July last year, its agents allegedly continued to conduct operations.

As a result, the NBI filed complaints of senous idegal detention and usurpation of authority against Jaylo and his men.

Jaylo, however, claimed he still had to arrest illegal re- serious cruiters because it was part of charges,

his job at the POEA and the labor department's Anti-Inegal Recrustment Task Force. The former Pairtf head is also a director of the POEA. Jaylo added that an illegal recruiter had filed the complaints against him and the Pairtf operatives.

The NBi earlier filed arbitrary detention and usurpation of authority charges against Jaylo be fore the justice department.

The bureau also filed charges of quantied bribery and thegal possession of firearms against Jaylo's men who were arrested in entrapment operations conducted by agents of the NBI's Special Task Force and Intelligence Special Operations Division in Octo ber last year.

The following month, agents of the NBI Special Action Unit raided the Paint's Manila office, lead ing to the arrest of more "illegal operatives.

NBI officials explained that Jaylo did not have any authority to appoint intelligence officers, which they stressed wege "nonexistent positions." Confplainants had been trooping to the NBI office in the past two months, accusing Jaylo's operatives of robbery, extortion and illegal detention

METROBRIEFS

Tax discount

in the prison.

PAY your taxes early and get a discount. This was the advice of Manila Mayor Lito Aberza to owners of real property and business establishments in the city as he reminded taxpayers that lets pay-

mant of dues. could mean severe penalties. Atlenza said the deadline for payment of rail estate taxes without a panal-



ty for the first quarter of 2006 would be on March 31. For the next three quarters of the year the deadline for payment would be on June 30 for the secand quarter Sept. 30 for the third quarter and Dec. 31 for the last quarter. Attenza announced that those who pay their taxes in full for the whole year before Jan 31 would be entitled to a 20percent discount, while those who pay on the first month of each quarter would be given a 15-percent discount. Atterpance C. Orth

Post-holiday depression

DEPRESSION over the death of a friend may have led a 29-year-old newspaper vendor to idli himself in Quezon City. according to the police. Marion Baranda's body was discovered hanging by a nylon cord from a wooden beam on the second floor of their house at 65 Sitio Lambak, Krus na Ligas, the police said. His father found the body at 2 p.m. Tuesday said PO2 Jaime Jimena of the criminal investigation division of the Quezon City Police District. His family told the police that he might have been depressed over the death of a triend on New Year's Day.

Clean-up drive

MANUE Mayor Lito Atlanza has given city officials and the traffic police until the end of the week to clear the

Percida Acosta had said earlier that Estero's death could be part of a plan to "liquidate" all the Aguino-Galman convicts. Ocenar has been confined at

the Phinppine Orthopedic Center for a gunshot wound in his left knee. He was shot by a jail guard. right after he stabbed Estelo. "He also wanted to convey his

apologies to the prison population for the inconvenience he had caused. He also expressed his sympathy for Estero's family," said Olaguer, who visited Ocenar at the hospital before noon yesterday to offer spiritual comfort.

Ocenar, however, refused to give details about the stabbing

Muslim Center in Quiapo of pedes-

"The Muslim area is one of the most

said, adding that the area's "chaotic

character" has discouraged develop-

ment and fostered mega, activities.

He ordered the City Engineering Of-

fice to clear the streets of Elizondo.

Gipbo de Oro, Gunao, Arlegu, and

Palance of Illegal vendors and physi-

ca, obstructions. Marganz C. Oriz

Special dance show

problematic sites in the city," Atlenza

trian and vehicular obstructions.

"But he said he was ready to pound, on New Year's Eve. He face the court with his statewas one of the 16 soldiers who ment," the priest added. had been convicted for the 1983

Olaguer sa.d that after Estelo's murders of Aquino and Galman. death, the 14 other soldiers who Pubne Attorney Office chief had been convicted along with for their lives. Another convict, ing to Valenzuela Brig Gen. Luther Custodio, died of cancer in 1991.

"The group had been together ever since they were detained at Villamor Air Base They have gone through a lot," Oraguer said Estelo's body, dressed in an air-

to allow his former colleagues to said Senior State Prosecutor Empay their final respects. He will be brought back to

man's uniform, was transferred

Dasmariñas, Cavite early Satur- rests made by the Pairtf after its day morning in time for the interment scheduled on the same day, said Olaguer.

'Night cops' to secure Metro sundowners

By Luige A, del Puerto

THE METRO MANILA POLICE has designated "night officers" to deter criminals that strike after the sun goes down.

This is an anti-criminality strategy. Metro Manila is a city that no longer

AN INSIDE SOURCE SAID COL.

Efren Daquil, the whistle-blower

in the alleged P30-million scam

at the Phinppine Air Force, is in-

The money is intact, therefore,

Let's tackle Daquil's allegation

"It is true that the P30-million

personnel savings cannot be re-

aligned for other purposes with-

out the approval of the Depart-

ment of Budget Management.

But it was never spent. It is now

that P30 million in savings had

the alleged scam that Daquil was

talking about is nonexistent, ac-

dulging in sour grapes

cording to my source.

been disbursed illegally.

sleeps, and we need to do this," Director Vidal Querol, National Capital Region Pouce Office (NCRPO) chief, told the INQUIRER over the phone.

The "Night Watch" project mainly involves making sure that ponce stations are open all night and that cops patrol crowded

places as well as darkly lit alleys. Quoting posice statistics, Querol's intelligence officer explained that many crimes happen between 8

p.m. to 1 a.m. Under the project, 4,000 to 5,000 policemen will go around the metropolis at night. Areas that Queson City. With Jocelyn R. By

will be closely watched include Mainte, Mamila, Ayala-Alabang, Munnilupa City; the Bonifacib Monument Circle in Caloocan; the Majabon, Caloocan and Navotas Junction, Cubso, Commonwealth, and Timog and Quezon Avenues an

PMAyers could be in serious trouble

A SPECTACULAR dance show from Hawaii will be one of the highlights in today's 100th anniversary calebration. of the First Filipino immigration to the lelands.

Marilla Mayor Lito Alienza yesterday announced that the leading Polynesian. group in



Hawali will perform in the "Tehit! Polynesian Show" at 8 p.m. today at the Baywalk. "This is in line with the centennial celebration of Filipino migration to Hawaii " he told reporters in an interview, adding that the show would be free of admission. The mayor said. hula and Tahitian dances, fire eaters, and instrumentalists would perform Margaux C. Orth during the show.

Silent victim

POLICEMEN investigating the slay attempt on big time fish trader Alice-Ordinario in Malabon City have complained that the victim has refused to cooperate in the probe. "The victim. herself refused to submit an affidavit and did not want to talk to the rivestigators," a policeman said Eight armed men fired on Ordinario's car last Thursday, letting four of her bodyguards. Ordinatio was wounded in the attack along with a relative. Maney G. Carvajai

TARGET Ramon

vice to be used for the acquisition of uniforms of soldiers," said the source who refused to be named.

The reason Dequil was griping, said the source, was that he was not given the position of chief of the Special Operations Wing based in the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga. That would have given him the rank of a with the DBM procurement ser-

brigadier general.

Why was Col Daquil, a graduare of the Philippine Mintary Academy (PMA), not given the "star" rank assignment? Because, my source said, he was allegedly haked to a woman soldier at Clark, "He was always absent from his post as deputy commander of the 710th Special Operations Wing, which is causing strained relations with his wife who is living in their quarters at Villamor Air Base in Passy City," said the source.

Another PMAyer may be in serious trouble because his men have been linked to the murder

restaurant. The PMAyer is a topranking officer at the Quezon City Police District (QCPD). His men were assigned to act as bodyguards of an alleged former "Japayuki," wife of a Japanese national. The QCPD officer and the woman reportedly had an affair. The woman and her husband allegedly conspired in the murder of a businessman who was gunned down on Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City. The two cops allegedly became the couple's hit men. It would be interesting to know why the two were involved in the murder conspiracy.

of a manager of a Japanese

SC decision ready to back up MMDA enforcers

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) will start "arming" lts traffic enforcers, amid conflicting interpretations of a recent Supreme Court decision that stripped the agency

of its police powers. Corazon Gonzales, MMDA Public Affairs Service director,

said they will be giving their enforcers copies of a letter written by Supreme Court (SC) chief information officer Ismael Khan Jr. explaining the High Tribunal's decision as guides "in case a motorist questions their authority."

The MMDA had initially wanted to distribute copies of the original SC ruling, but dropped the idea as their enforcers may not be

able to understand the decision. In addition, the copies may be too bulky to carry in their pockets.

The High Tribunal's second division decision dated Dec 5, 2005 dismissed the MMDA's petition for the court to reconsider its earlier ruling stopping the agency from usuing traffic violation receipts and confiscating drivers' licenses.

Khan explained that the decision did not strip the MMDA of the power to catch or arrest violators.

"While the MMDA can enforce traffic laws, ordinances, and regulations (ansing from a legitlmate source), it is devoid of the power to promulgate the same since it does not have police powers," he said.

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PLUI QUEREE IMART TO IMART, TEXTI

during peak hours (outside 11pm - 6am), expires in 2 days

TO REGISTER *

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Туре

150FFPK and send to 258.

You will receive a confirmation menhage of your regist; allon.

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You may now make unlimited tools to other Smart subscribers for 2 days. To enjoy SMART 258 Toxi Reload, your account must have a maintaining balance of at least P1.00.

The registration and during the 2-day (lext) ported, (mointer another).



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Type 15 and send to 256.

You will receive a confirmation message of your registration. You may now make unlimited texts to other Smart subscribers for 1 day.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

2 Pacquiao, three other RP pugs meet in LA /A19



■ Pistons thwart Magic

E Hingis continues comeback surge

Mayweather Boxer of the Year

Abap rehires crack Cuban coach

By Dennis U. Eroa Libre sports editor

INSPIRED BY PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DEClaration of boxing as a "preferred sport" in the search for the country's first Olympic gold, the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines has tapped Cuban coach Raul Fernandez Liranza to spearhead the training of the national training pool in Baguio City.

Liranza, who will arrive this month, reassumes the head coaching job he gave up following his controversial handling of the RP team in the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Liranza is a leading member of the coaching staff of the famed Cuban boxing team. which netted four golds, two silvers and a bronze medal in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Presently, the Cuban boxing staff is headed by Sarvelio Fuentes with Liran-

za, Julian Gonzales and Julio Torres as

deputies. "There's no doubt in my mind that Raul will play a crucial role in our bid to ride the momentum on our Southeast Asian Games success in the 2006 Dohn Asiad. said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines. "Simply put, Liranza is world class."

Lopez said PSC chair William Ramirez, cluef accountant Merle Ibay, the ABAP

Jorge Rey Jimenez have already ironed out details of Liranza's contract.

Liranza, who will be based in Baguio City, will receive a monthly salary of \$3,000 (P159,000 at P53 to a dollar) with \$2,500 coming from the PSC and \$500 from the ABAP

"Ambassador Jimenez has already assured me that the Cuban Sports Ministry has allowed Raul to come back. He's arriving this month," said Lopez.

Credited for helping Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco win the silver medal in the light flyweight class during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Liranza found himself in the middle of a concroversy four years later at the Sydney Olympics that forced him to resign when he ordered brother Danny and Arlan Lerio to slug it out with their respective foes in the final round despite leading on points.

"Raul thought that the Lerios would be

and Cuban Ambassador to the Phihppines unbeatable. But we've already buned the past and we're looking forward to a more fruitful result for the national boxing team under Raul," Lopez said.

Liranza will be assisted by longtime national coaches Pat Gaspi and Boy Velason and other members of the coaching staff credited for ousting powerhouse Thailand in the overall battle in the recent SEA Games boxing championships in Bacolod City.

Lopez said the Philippines is looking to win at least one gold in the Asian Games which the country is using to jumpstart its bed for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"The more the merrier, of course,"

Among the notables in the RP pool are Asian champions Harry Tañamor (light flyweight) and Joan Tipon (bantamweight) and promising lightweight Genebert Basadre, who also won a gold in the SEAG.



LIRANZA: Back to steer quest for gold.

PSC scraps contracts of six coaches

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE CONTRACTS OF SIX FOREIGN COACHes have been terminated by the Philippine Sports Commission in line with its drive to develop homegrown coaching talent base as incorporated in the Sports Institute set to be unveiled next month.

The number of foreign coaches will be reduced from 16 to 10 since the contracts of the six that will expire on Jan. 31 will not be renewed, according to PSC chair Butch Ramurez yesterday.

He said the Sports Institute will offer various courses aimed at developing the knowledge of coaches and athletes, adding that he retained the 10 foreign coaches to help faciliate the transfer of technology.

American bowling coach Purvis Granger and Chinese diving mentor Zhang Dehu were among those given fresh extension of their contracts as reward for their contribution to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games success

Bowling won four golds while diving contributed five victories in the country's overall championship drive during the biennial Games last month.

Six other coaches still have live contracts until June 2006, while two more foreign conches are under evaluation.

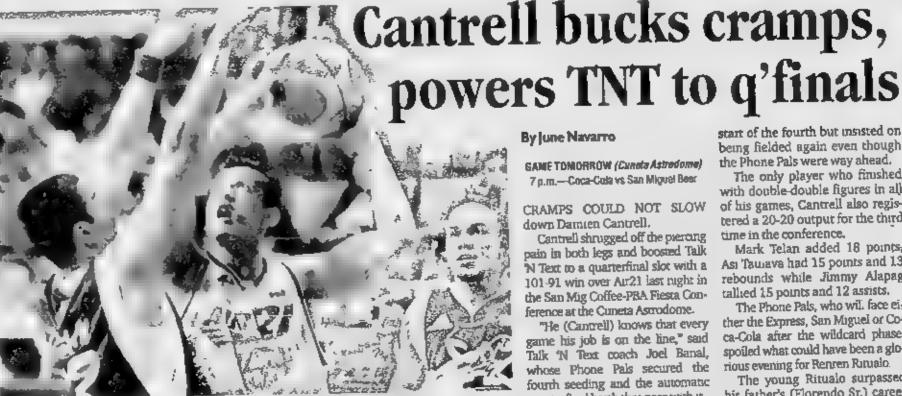
Ramirez said that one of the main factors in hiring foreign coaches is his ability to teach and transfer technology to local coaches.

"There should be somebody who will stay to teach our local coaches and transfer what they know," said Ramirez.

Team Philippines won 113 gold, 82 silver and 94 bronze medals to bag its first ever SEAG championship title since joining the biennial meet in 1977

Meanwhile, the PSC will hold the Philippine Unified Sports Conference on Feb. 15 at the Philsports Arena with participants from the Department of Education, Department of Interior and Local Government, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP)

The meeting hopes to lay down the framework of the unified sports program for the year especially in holding national-level meets like the Palarong Pambansa, the Tertiary Palaro, the Prisaa and the Philippine National Games.



AIR21's John Ferriols tries to score off TNT's Mark Yelan in their game last night.

Bigger PBL crowds seen

EXPECT BIGGER CROWDS WHEN THE 2006 nity and we assure all officials, owners and PBL Heroes Cup resumes this Saturday after a

long holiday break. This is because some of the teams will be fighting for survival in the league's new play-

ing venue-the elegant San Andres Gym Aside from its accessibility, staging games in the heart of the country's presuer sporting city is part of the league's all-out effort to reach out to its thousands of fens.

Manila Sports Council chair Ali Attenza has warmly welcomed the addition of San Andres Gym to the lengue's playing venues, saying: "We're honored to be part of the PBL commu-

players of our all-out support." Sports-loving Manileños are now excited to see the games and we hope that our buckling players will be inspired further by warching PBL games," said the son of Manila Mayor Lito Anenza.

"We're glad that Mr. Atienza and the city government allowed us to use the San Andres Gym. We hope we could bring good cheer to all Manileños," said PBL commissioner Chino Trimdad.

Trimdad said the inclusion of the San Andres Gym is one big step towards its goal of reviving the old PBL magic when games at the nearby Rizal Memorial Coliseum were filled to the rafters.

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW (Cunsts Astrodome) 7 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel Beer

CRAMPS COULD NOT SLOW down Damien Cantrell.

Cantrell shrugged off the piercing pain in both legs and boosted Talk the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"He (Cantrell) knows that every game his job is on the line," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals secured the fourth seeding and the automatic quarterfinal benth that goes with it.

"But he's a fighter and he's willing to slug it out just to keep his job," added Banal.

Talks of Cantrell's possible departure swirled when a team source revealed that a member of the coaching staff is set to fly to the United States and scout for another import.

But he's not ready to pack his

Cantrell came out scorching with 12 points and 10 rebounds right in the first half and finished the game with 22 points and 22 boards, his 17th double-double in as many games.

"You cannot readily change an import who is willing to give 100

percent on the floor," said Banal. Cantrell suffered cramps at the

start of the fourth but insisted on being fielded again even though the Phone Pals were way ahead. The only player who finished

with double double figures in all of his games, Cantrell also registered a 20-20 output for the third time in the conference.

Mark Telan added 18 points, N Text to a quarterfinal slot with a Asi Tamava had 15 points and 13 101-91 win over Arr21 last right in rebounds while Jimmy Alapag tallied 15 points and 12 assists.

The Phone Pals, who will face either the Express, San Miguel or Coca-Cola after the wildcard phase, spoiled what could have been a glo-

rious evening for Renren Ritualo. The young Ritualo surpassed his father's (Florendo St.) career scoring total after drilling in 20 points for the Express. Ritualo, who became the first of only nine second-generation PRA players to outscore his father, increased his

career total to 2011 points Florendo St. had 1,997 career points after nine seasons playing for Great Taste in the 80s while the. younger Ritualo achieved the fear on his fourth year in the pro league.

The scores. TALK 19, TEXT 101-Cantrell 22, Telan 18, Meter 15, Tautava 15, Alapag 15, Balano 9, Pablo 5, Carey 2, Gelig 0, Avenido 0.

ARR21 91-Daniels 22, Ritualo 20, Qe Ocambo 17, David 16, Arboreda 10, Ferriois 4, Canaleta 2, Tubid 2, Se 2, De Ocarnpo 2, Dacia 0, Fran 0.

Quarters: 29-21, 46-46, 74-65, 101-91

Estadian, Domogan rule CJH Chairman's Cup

ping net 11-imder-par 58 while Rep. Mauricio Domogan submutted an evenpar 69 to clinch the low net and low gross awards in the recent Chairman's Cup year-end golf nournament at the Camp John Hay Golf Club in Baguio City.

Domogan, a 6-handicapper, also captured the Class A plum with his 63, winning over Fred Puckett and Ding Sevilla in the two-day tourney which attracted a record field of 230 players.

The other division winners were Rolly Esteban in Class B, Elmo Nevada in announced the soft opening of the 19th

GENE ESTADIAN TAILIED A WHOP Class C, Sacha Vukasinovic in Class D, Tee at the Manor Suites where the Nora Sy in the ladies division and Junjun Plana in the sponsors/guests.

Sponsors of the tourney held in honor of Camp John Hay chairman Bob Sobrepena were Communications, Camp John Hay Dev't, Co., Club Leisure Corp., Golforce, Le Chef, FMMI, John Hay Waters, Wilson, DHN Construction and Dev't Corp.

After presenting the trophies and prizes to the winners, Sobrepeña, chairman of the Camp John Hay Golf Club,

awards ceremony was held.

The revived 19th Tee is almost in the same location at the old John Hay, offering a panoramic view of the course. The 280-room Suites, meanwhile, is expected to be fully completed by summer this year and will supplement the existing facilities of the Camp John Hay Manor which was

fully-booked during the holidays. Jun Jun Plane, general manager of Wilson Sports, fired a two-under-gross of 67

in topping the sponsors/guests division.

Overall Het-Gane Estadian 58, Low Gross-Mauricio Domogen 69

Class A: 63 Mauricio Domogan, 64 Fred Puckett, 64 Ding Sevilla

Class B. 63 Rolly Estaban, 64 Gus Salpado, 65

Class C: 62 Elmo Nevada, 63 Bobby Legaspi, 85 Tony Espiritu

Class D: 61 Sacha Vukasinovic, 82 Mark Mendoza, 63 James Molina Lastes: 59 Nora Sy. 62 Littbeth Flatcliffs, 66

Gloridy Sharps Guests/Spossors: 67 Junjun Pians, 68 Jingy Tuason, 71 Jong Arcano

SEAG champion targets Asian Games gold



ROSARIO displays his SEAG gold medals.

AFTER WINNING TWO GOLD MEdals in the recent Southeast Asian Games here, skeet shooter Paul Brian Rosario is looking forward to a stint in the Asian Games in Doha,

Oatar, late this year. "That's my next goal," said the 23year-old, 6-foot-2 Rosario during a break in training at the world-class PN-SA range in Muntinlupa City. "I have yet to compete in the Asian Games, I hope to make it this time."

Rosario tallied a total of 138 points to beat a couple of Malaysians for the individual gold and then shared the team gold with Darius Hizon and Patricio Bernardo in the last SEAG.

His double triumph came two months after he snatched the individual skeet gold in the Seasa (Southeast Asian Shooting Association) championships in Kuala Lumpur where he outsteadied a Thal in the shootoff.

Rosario's entry into the shooting

world at the tender age of 13 was largely influenced by his father, Pol, himself a former national skeet shooter.

I am working much harder now because I would like to improve my SEAG performance," said Rosario, a marketing graduate of Thames International School. With more international exposure, I know I'd be able to achieve my

Rosario won his first gold medal at 17 in the 1999 pre-SEA Games invita-

tional tournament organized by Prince Sufri in Brunei. He was part of the RI' team that bagged a sliver in Brune: dur ing the 1999 SEAG. Then he captured two SEAG andividual silvers-one in KI in 2001 and the other in Hanol, Vien am, in 2003.

"I know that if I make it to the Doha Asia, I'd be up against tough opposition But like in the recent SEA Games, Pro ready to give my best for flag and coun try," Rosario said.

FOXTROT



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BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

DAHIL BAGONG TAON NA... MAGBABAGONG BUHAY NA AKO. OWS?

DI KO NA GAGA-WIN ANG MGA MASASAMANG KINA UGACIAN NG PINO) SIMULA NGAYON

PAG-UWI KO NA LANG SA PINAS! TAWAG DYAN

BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN







PUGAD BABOY



BY PM, JUNIOR KAYA NGAYON E GOOD MORNING MRS BORLONGAN PAMILYA KO NA MAG.
PABANGO NA CLD
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NG SARILI NAMING
MGA ASO PAMILYAR PO YANG OOLOGNE NIYO WA AM A "

BABY BLUES







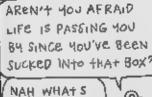


MUTTS





ATOMO AND WEBOY



there to Miss?





DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



OVER

Horoscope

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: No matter what adversities you fare, you survive. You have an inner strength that helps you bounce back from anything. You're also optimistic! Your courage and willingness to try different things often bring out the best in others. Big changes await you in the year ahead (perhaps as significant as in 1997). Birthdate of: Robert Duvall, actor; Umberto Eco, novelist, Diane Keaton, actress



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The Moon is in your sign today and tomorrow. This gives you a slight advantage over all the other signs. It can also make you a bit more emotional



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Aconfidentia conversation with a female friend might be imyou need to do all the talking; maybe you need to do all the asten-ing. Who knows?



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). Try to do some

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct.

22): Because today's Moon apposes your sign, be cooperative and willing to listen. If some-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21); This is a pro-ductive day at work. You

have the bit in your

teeth, and you're ready

to run. You're taking a

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22) to Dec. 21): This is a good day for you be-

cause the Moon is in

fellow

sign-Aries. That's why

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Quite likely,

you'll have to talk to a

parent or somebody im-

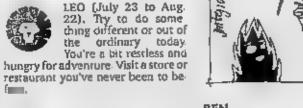
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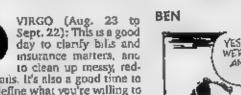
day. Keep the conversa-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to

Feb. 18): Busy dayl You're trying to do ev-crything. Keep up the pace It's the best way to

handle this day. Get in





MIKROKOSMOS



..TAPAS KALIWA SA PANGATLONG KANTO, KANAN SA STOPLIGHT ...



BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

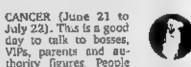
TAWID KASA HINDE - MAGTANDNG TULAY, TAPOE KA ULI RON, HIND KO KASI ALAM kung san b

lately.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). Time spent by yourself today will be welcome, if you can manage it. Sometimes a bit of solitude can promote contentment and relaxation (You've been pushing yourself hard



day to talk to bosses, VIPs, parents and au-thority figures. People notice you and are willing to listen to you today. (Good.)



tape details. It's also a good time to clearly define what you're willing to

body is tooking for a fight today,

no-nonsense approach to things.

your

tion polite, Avoid arguments.

you feel playful, prankish and in a

You want results!

teasing mood

walk the other way—prontol

do for somebody else.









DAILY CROSSWORD

- **ACROSS** 1 Trig. function 6 Caper 10 Kampuchea's neighbor
- 14 Shanks 15 Utopia 16 Wrinkled Ittell 17 Runs at a
- steady galt 18 Start of J. Paul Getty quote
- 20 Compass pl. 21 Photog's prompt
- 23 Twin __ suspension 24 Part 2 of quote 25 PAU's
- 26 Designate 28 Part 3 of quote 34 Empty spaces 36 '50s candidate
- 37 Sister 38 Draws breath 39 Eye network
- 40 Computer shortcut 42 Put to work
- 43 Pub potable 44 Stormy seabled 45 Part 4 of quote 49 Douglas Smith

4 Afore

5 Presis garments 6 Point of

extinction

Bulwarks 9 Jennon's love

12 Staw pot

7 Pastoral poem

10 Sewnill output

11 Chills and fever

13 Theiland, once

22 Brits' raincoats

19 Outer edges

27 Some sloths

29 Aries article

30 Scimitar's

31 Growing

32 Certain 33 Organic

34 Sad

COURIN

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35 Kudrow of

"Friends"

40 Scrooge trait

39 Sort of sale

41 Crowd fig.

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 - PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're in the mood to drive a hard bargain in any kind of fi-

nancial arrangements you make today You won't back down. Because of this, you might get the upper hand in

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TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



SPORTS

NBC caging starts today

VALENCIA CITY—INAUGURAL CHAMPION Tribu Sugbu leads four teams vying for honors starting today in the 5th Day Charter Open invitationa, basketball tournament here which serves as the second leg of the Nature's Spring-NBC pre-

Also entered are host Valencia Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galano Jr., Pagadian's Aqua World and the North Cotabato Braves.

Cash prizes of P50,000 and P30,000 await the champion and runner-up, according to NBC secretary general Tito Palma.

Valencia and the Braves clash after the 5 p.m. rites, while the Skygo/Sirlitz-backed Tribesmen of businessmen Lito Gillamac and Mario King face Pagadian-based Aqua World at 7 p.m.

"The people here are excited," said Mayor Galario of the tourney, "We're grateful to NBC for allowing us to hold this tournament."

The Nature's Spring-NBC pre-season series is also supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Molten and Prime Channel. The pre-season series paves the way for the

opening of our regular competition on March 10," said NBC president and national shooter Nathaniel 'Tac' Padilla.

Pagadian is the newest NBC expansion team



KENNETH San Andres of Revtex Team scoots home to victory in the Expert Open category of the Speedfest at the Palo Also Racetrack.

San Andres wins twice

RISING STAR KENNETH SAN Andres cemented his status as the future of motocross after clinching both the Expert Open and Expert 125 titles of the Red Horse Beer-Smart Buddy Speedfest Championship at the Palo Alto Racetrack in Baras, Rizal, recently

San Andres, the 2004 Rookie of the Year, did four masterful rides in the two motos of the Expert Open and 125 to trace the tracks of Revtex teammate and certified great Glenn Aguilar, who is the overall Pro Open

champion in the Speedfest.

A first year IT student of the Manila Central University, 5an Andres was already assured of the two titles even before he boarded his racing machine in the Speedfest. But San Andres still went all out. With Reviex oil pumping his racing machine to perfection, San Andres bested rivals Geovan, Leyva and Jimboy Marcelo.

"There's nothing like fireshing the season on a winning note," said San Andres, who is also the sixthbest rider in the Asian region.

Pacquiao, 3 other RP pugs meet in LA

looked like a Filipino household yesterday when four of the country's finest fighters, all honing up under renowned trainer Freddie Roach, converged there for the first time.

Z "The Dream" Gorres and Czar Amonsot, both slated to see action on Feb. 3, arrived at the gym around 10:30 yesterday morning together with their manager Tony Aldeguer and Filipino trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor.

Business agent Michael Koncz was also with the

Roach greeted and welcomed the group along

with physical conditioning coach Justin Fortune, who knew Gorres from his previous stint at the

As the two trained, Fli-Am Brian Vilona, the reigning World Boxing Council light flyweight champion, arrived with his father and greeted Gorres and Amonsot.

At the end of their training session, Füipino champion Manny Paquiao arrived looking fit and ready for his Jan. 21 rematch with Mexican hero Erik Morales.

Gorres and Amonsot worked out for the first

THE WILD CARD GYM IN LOS ANGELES time at Wild Card since arriving last Dec. 27

After a 15-minute warm-up, Gorres and Amonsot immediately plunged into action, hitting the mitts for four rounds. Roach handled Gorres, while Villamor took care of Amonsot

A series of heavy bag drills was followed by speed workout where Gorres and Amonsot did two rounds each on the double end bail and speed bal. Abdomina, sit-ups was the final phase of their training for the day preparatory for their sparing sessions slated today. Salven L. Lagumbay, con-

Boxer unpaid after loss

A PIL, PINO boxer who fought and lost in his crack at the WBC Youth minimum weight little in Thalland last Dec. 23 has yet to be paid according to Philiboxing. corn, the most updated and comprehensive website on RP fighters. Manager Rex "Wakee" Salud said unless Alex Aroy is paid, he wont allow his other ward, Jojo Bardon, to fight in another promotion by a certain Bong Obero in Thailand, Aroy, according to Boxrec.com, lost a unanimous decision to Oleydong Sithchanerchai at the Rajabhak University in Petcha-Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor boon, Thailand.

Wondrous PBA innovation

THE GOOD THING ABOUT PBA 2005 was the stunning innovation introduced by Commissioner Noli Eala, first, by making just two conferences for the season and second, by giving all nine teams practically equa, chances to battle it out for the second conference crown.

It couldn't get any better than this.

The first pivotal aspect of the change is, it was designed for flag and country. You may not have realized it but the two-conference format had been adopted with the end in view of providing the national team with кеу PBA players for battles abroad. To a certain extent, the move proved beneficial to the country as Chot Reyes' San Miguerbacked national squad laced with PBA stalwarts and promising amateurs did a good account of itself in three tournaments abroad. It even won one title

It was just too bad that the noble PBA mission had been torpedoed when politics - suspension, the country missed its chance to

reared its ugly head, triggering the 38-man Olympic general assembly to expel the BAP from the Olympic roster on grounds of con duct unbecoming a member of the Olympic movement. The vote was 33.2, with 3 ab-

The BAP sought help from the Fiba, ask ing mainly the world governing body for basketball to overturn the general assembly decision expedling it from the POC. But instead of the Fiba addressing the appeal, it suspended the Philippines from participating in all Fiba-sanctioned events world-

What a shame, indeed.

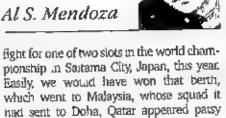
As a result, basketball was not played for the first time in the 23rd SEA Games won by the Philippines astoundingly in Decem-

But a more bitter blow than that was inflicted on us when, as a result of the Fiba

Fim fes

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



credentials. Such was the fate that befel. Philippine basketbal, ast year.

when ranged against Chot Reyes' team's

But that is now water under the bridge, so to speak, and life has got to move on.

Thus, in the ongoing San Mig Coffee PBA Fiesta Conference, we see a unique for-

mat that has become the envy of rival leagues and made PBA fans salivate day in and day out.

The spirit of the second conference format is such that achievers are amply rewarded while the not-so-lucky are given the chance to redeem themselves and climb out of the pits even with their unpalatable winloss records deep into the tournament.

Thus, we see the Purefoods Chunkee Giants enjoying an extended furlough never before seen in the league, after nailing the first semifina, berth with their 10-6 record after the eliminations.

So elated was Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio with his team's sterling achievement that he let his boys enjoy the holidays to the fullest.

I can only agree with that.

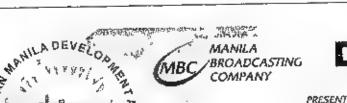
It's called giving credit where credit is due and at the same time rewarting the truly deserving. The Giants earned it and

they ought to relish the fruits of their labor.

THE CAYETANOS. Ren Ren Cayetano, the former international jungoifer, has tied the knot. It was held in Cebu and this gave the Cayetanos the opportunity to spend the holidays out of Manila. Said Sen. Pia Cayetano, "The death of our Dad (Sen. Rene Cayetano) still hurts and Ren's wedding in Cebu gave us the chance to spend Christmas far from Mamla. Dad's demise is really still painful to us."

FASTBREAK, Coach Dayong J. Mendoza of Purefoods Chunkee Gants is calling on his JASMS classmates to join the retinion on Jan. 8 at Dencio's in Capitol Hills Golf Club in Diliman, Q.C. Cal. Dayong at 0915-3888812 for details

Comments to menju@pldtdsunet











FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS DEC. 25 - JAN. 7, 2006

MALL TOUR Dec. 13 - Dec. 30, 2005

RECORIDA Dec. 19 - Jan. 4, 2006

PARADE OF STARS Dec. 24, 2005

AWARDS NIGHT Jan. 6, 2006

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS Text: MMFF to 2910 for details

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Mayweather Boxer of the Year

Boxing Council chose super lightweight champion Ployd Mayweather as its boxer of the year on Tuesday, one of several annual awards announced by the Taylor, received honorable men- rera was awarded the knockout

Mayweather won the super lightweight title in January 2005 with an eighth-round TKO of Henry Bruseles, adding to his sufeatherweight lightweight titles he won earber

welterweight division in 2005, a Mitchell in November.

Another US boxer, Jermain non as the best boxer.

The council declared the May 7 lightweight bout won by American Diego Corrales over Mexico's Jose Luis Castillo on a 10th round TKO as its "best fight of the year."

The most dramatic fight of the

MEXICO CITY-THE WORLD He also won his debut bout in the year was judged to be the March decision in which Mexico's Erik sixth-round TKO of Sharmba Morales beat the Philippines' Manny Pacquiso.

Mexican Marco Antonio Barof the year for his right to the head of South Africa's Mzonke Fana in the second round of their

The honors will be presented Jan. 28-31 in the Caribbean coast resort of Cancun.



MAYWEATHER

Hearns assaults own son

DETROIT, MICHIGAN-FOR following the incident which ocmer seven-time world champion Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns was charged with assault after police responded to an incident at his home involving his 13-year-old son

The 47-year-old Hearns is expected to appear in court on Priday for a preluminary hearing in front of a judge, the Detroit Free Press reported on Tuesday.

Police charged Hearns with misdemeanor assault and battery stopped in the 8th round. AFP

curred on Sunday. He was rereased on \$10,000 bond Monday and ordered to have no contact

Police went to Hearns' Detroitarea home aft er being called by Hearns' wife. The boy suffered minor injuries, including a black eye, and was treated at the scene.

After a five-year hiatis, Hearns returned to the ring in July where he beat John Long in a bout

Pistons thwart Magic; Rockets blast Wizards NEW YORK—CHAUNCEY Billups scored a regular season career-high 37 points as the Detroit Pistons won their 25th game of the season, downing the Orlando Magic, 108-99, in Auburn Hills on Tuesday. Billups was 9-for-15 from the floor and Ben Wallace added 11 points and had four three-pointers as the and nine rebounds. Dwight Howard had 22 points and Pistons improved their NBA-best 14 rebounds for the Magic, who record to 25-4. trailed by just two points and the half and by the same margin after He also added nine assists as the Blazers, 95-81 2004 NBA Fina.s Most Valuable Playthree quarters. er increased his chances at an All-Jameer Nelson added 18 points Star selection and possible regular

UTAH's Andrei Kirilenko goes high to block a shot by Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom during their NBA game Tuesday. The Jazz beat the Lakers, 90-80.

season MVP consideration later this

Detroit saw its nine-game winning streak snapped with a loss at Cleveland on Saturday, but the Pistons rebounded smartly to become the first team to win 25 games this season.

"We had a letdown against Cleveland, and we needed to turn that around," Billups said

"We couldn't let it continue." Detroit coach Flip Saunders felt it was going to be a good night for Billups, who once scored 40 points in a play-

"He felt good tonight and when he feels that good, we're just going to let him go.

Richard Hamilton added 25 points for the Pistons, while Zaza Pachuna both scored 18 points Tayshaun Prince chipped in with 12 for the Hawks.

for Orlando (12-16), as the Magic saw its three-game winning streak

In Washington, Tracy McGrady scored 38 points as the Houston Rockets beat the Wizards, 123-111 Juwan Howard added 24 points

and Rafer Alston scored 17 points and had 10 assists for the Rockets. Gilbert Arenas scored 44 points in

a losing cause and Caron Butter added 20 points for the Wizards. In Atlanta, Chris Bosh scored 27 points and had 12 rebounds as the

Toronto Raptors beat the Hawks, Mike James added 28 points for

the Rantors Al Harrington, Joe Johnson and

Raco 1 (Tri) Erica's Talent (4), Tellenotes (5), Mellars (1) 2 (Pent/TrQ D

adalera/Mountein Egale (7). Bunker Buster (8). Step od

Gas (9). La Signomna (1),

In Memphis, Eddie Jones scored 23 points as the Grizzlies beat the Golden State Warriors, 104-94.

Pau Gasol added 21 points for the

Grazzles. Jason Richardson scored 20 points and Derek Fisher added 18

points for the Warriors. In Dallas, Josh Howard scored 21 points and had 10 rebounds as the Mavencks beat the Portland Trail

Dirk Howitzki and Jason Terry both scored 22 points for the Maver-

COMPLETE RESULTS: Toronto 108, Atlania 97: Houston 123, Washington 111: Detroit 108, Orlando 99; Memphis 104, Golden State 94, Dallas 95, Portland 81 Utah 90, LA Lakers 80; Philadelphia 111, Sacramento 98. Rauters

SOLAR Sports will air the Portland-San Antonio tussle at 9:30 a.m.

Sonics fire coach

SEATTLE-BOB WEISS WAS FIRED as coach of the Seattle SuperSonics on Tuesday, with his NBA team strug gling at 13-17 after having won its division last year

Weiss, in his first year coaching the Sonics, was replaced by assistant Bob Hill, the team said

Federer, Davydenko win in Doha

DOHA, QATAR-TOP-RANKED ROGER Federer breezed through his first match of 2006 while another former champion Younes El Aynaoui grabbed the spotlight with an upset victory in the Qatar Open

first round on Tuesday. After a sprained ankle troubled Federer at by casting aside Czech qualifier Ivo Minar, 6-

"It's great to find some momentum early in the season," said Federer, who has won his first tournament in three of the past four looked back, though there were extended

El Aynaoui, the 2002 champ and finalist 10 years ago, was previously dogged by foot and shoulder problems. He didn't win a match in 2004 and won only once on the main tour in

But on Tuesday, the lanky Moroccan the end of last year, he hit the ground running showed little signs of rust as he outhustled fourth-seeded Sebastien Grosjean of Prance, much to the joy of hundreds of Arab fans.

El Aynaoui broke in the seventh game with a stinging pass to go up 4-3 and then hardly

spells in the second set when Grosjean's artistry had him groping for answers. However, El Aynaoul completed the victory with a

Federer will next face 2000 champ Fabrice Santoro after the French veteran beat Austrian qualifier Oliver Marach, 6-0, 2-6, 6-4

Second-seeded Nikolay Davydenko of Russia, who won a career-high 56 matches last year, ousted Christophe Rochus of Belgium, 6-3, 6-1, but countryman and No. 5 lgor Andreev lost to Italian qualifier Potito Starace, 7-5, 1-6, 7-5.



ITALIAN Francesca Schlavone does a scrambling between-the-legs return.

3 (Onl/Tri) Dearn Desp/Eye Candy (6), Selson Fantasy (3), Manilla Smile (4) Nuck of the Irish (5). Recall (Ort/Tri) Odyssey (5). The Strategist (1), Prida of Standaro (3), Sir Otson (5), Kecik Ka Oyan.

TOP CHOICE (Edgar Mendez)

Boy (1), U are my Surishine (7), D As in Dixie (4). Kinema

Heat (5) Race 7 (Ont/In) Empire State (4)

Auce 8 (Page/Tit) Semper Spirit/ Kabura Matata (B), Alloy My

Race 6 (Grs/fri) _A Tondaria/Guad (7) Real Queen (5), Virgine (1), Llove Tris Garre (3)
Rece 1, 38/On/Tri) Magic Dencer/Mano PO (7). The Opmenator (23), Ravishang RABy (8), Silver Chio Cho (10), Southers Prince (4)

Hingis continues surge with hardcourt victory

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA-FIVE-TIME Grand Slam winner Martina Hingis continued her comeback Wednesday with a straight sets win in the second round of the Australian women's hardcourt event, proving she could be a serious contender at the Australian Open

later this month. Former No. 1 Hingls took an hour and 10 minutes to oust world No. 35 Czech Kiara Koukalova, 6-3, 6-2, from the \$239,000 (176,350) Gold Coast cournament.

The victory puts Hingis, 25, on course to meer World No. 50 Spaniard Nuria Llagostera Vives, who caused a major upset Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-1 trouncing of No. 2 seed

Francesca Schievone of Italy.

And it shows she is gaining form ahead of next week's Sydney International and the Australian Open which begins on Jan. 16.

Hingis retired in 2002 with ankle, foot and heel injuries before making an abortive comeback attempt in a WTA event in Thailand in February last year when she lost to Germany's Marlene Weingartner.

But her 6-1, 6-1 first-round victory over Venezuela's Maria Vento-Kabchi on Monday marked a more determined return to professional tennis. Earner Wednesday defending champion Party Schnyder of Switzerland beat American Angela Haynes, 6-3, 6-0.



Vietnam police to probe 2003 SEAG football

HANOI-VIETNAMESE FOOTBALL OFFIcials have asked police to investigate allegations of match-fixing at the Southeast Asian Games here three years ago, in the latest twist to a scandal that has gripped

the nation. The announcement comes after four members of the national under-23 side have already been detained on suspicion of fixing matches in the most recent SEA Games in the

Philippines, last month. According to police newspaper An Ninh

their play down in a "suspicious way" in a match against Malaysia in 2003, allowing the visitors to obtain a draw after full-time.

in overtime, Vietnam scored a goal to enter the final against Thailand, which it lost

"The scenario of this game was exactly the same as the one of the match between Vietnam and Malaysia in the Philippines in December," an official from the Vietnamese Football Federation said.

The football-mad nation is going through

Thu Do, several Vietnamese players slowed the worst crisis gripping the game since 1975, and the story has been on the front pages of local newspapers for weeks.

The scandal has also led to the resignation of federation vice president Le The Tho and the sacking of coach Le Thuy Hai, one of three assistants to national coach Alfred Riedl of Austria, by club aide Danang.

State media said Wednesday that Nguyen Huu Thang, head coach of the central Song Lam Nghe An club, was now also being ques-

SPORTSWATCH

Couriers clinches MBL crown

COUR, ERS brought down Aquady's, 96-97, to capture the title in the lifth MBL-Chairman's Cup at the Aguines gym in San Juan recently. University of Manila star Ryan Regalado powered the Couriers to victory in this seasonending tournament organized by Millennium Basketball League (MBL). Regalado, the 2005 Naascu MVP, scored 14 of his 25 points in the payoff period for the Alex Wang-mentored Courters, Laurence Garda added 18 points. Richard Litonjua had 15 and ex-pro Paeng Santos 10 points for Courters. San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito awarded the trophy to the winning team, assistad by MSL president George Palaran, Alex Jaleco and Loreto Tolentino.

Kidz Moops holds cage leveling

KIDZ Hoops, the only community-inspired basketball league open to all boys and girls ages 8 to 14, will hold its 1st Conference leveling on Jan. 15 at the RFM Gym on Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City from 2 to 4 p.m. right after registration at 1 p.m. Kidz Hoops offers a positive learning experience for both beginners and experienced players alike. The league's goal is to provide recreational opportunities for the youth in a safe and organized environment. It also aims to promote the positive effects of physical fitness and exercise along with sportsmanship and good conduct. Playing Jerseys will be provided. For inquiries call tel./fex 3710639 or visit www.xidzhoops.com

70 fights at Las Piñas Coliseum

WITH more than 70 fights lined up, Las Pifias Collegum's season opener 3cock derby starts at 5 p.m. today with cockers from Matro Manila and nearby provinces participating. To host the event is former Mayor Nene Aguillar, who will again donate part of proceeds to Las Piñas City's Clean and Green project. Two refrigerators will be given as bonus to the champions, while P1,000 additional prize will be given per win. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910. Las Piñas Coliseum also presents its version of the popular "Fastast Win One-Cock Ulutan* on Jan. 16, with P500,000 guaranteed prize.



PICAA MVP: Former PBA player Alvin Teng of Hobe Bihon (center) was voted as most valuable player in the Picaa Filipino-Chinese basketball tournament held at the Philippine Buddhacare gym in Quezon City. With Teng are (from left) commissioner Eusebio "Boy" Ong, BAP vice president Christian Tan and Hobe Bihon team owners Bobby and Marcelo Co.

"I SHOULDN'T talk too much," AiAi says, after a scolding by network exec. HICTOR BY INCLUDING ALMOREMENT

Top contenders for MMFF awards

ZSA ZSA PADILLA, JENNYLYN MERCADO and Rica Peralejo lead 20 contenders for Best Actress in the ongoing 31st Metro Manila Film Festival, INQUIRER Entertainment learned on Tuesday.

The "Gabi ng Parangal," or awards night, is set tomorrow night at the Aliw Theater, Star City complex, in Pasay City.

Zsa Zsa is nominated for her role as Chona Chong in Joel Lamangan's comedy, "Ako Legal Wife: Mano Po 4?" while Jennylyn stars in "Blue Moon," another Lamangan film, and Rica in Joey Reyes' thriller, "Kutob."

"Rica [is the] dark horse," said Wilson Tieng, a member of the MMFF selection committee. "So is Marvin Agustin for Best Actor. His work in 'Kutob' is exceptional."

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2: Enteny Kabisyto II 2 : Rental

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3: Exedus

4: Shake, flattle

4; Shake, Wattle a Rolli

5: Madawhi



RICA and Marvin are "dark horses.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ROCES 3733365 to 66 / 3718886 to 87 • SM MEGAMALL 6352577 SM FAIRVIEW, 2nd Fly Annex 9377453

By the INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

AIAI OMEDIAN delas Alas has admitted that an ABS CBN executive reprimanded her for making comments" "negative about the network during a press conference for her movie "Shake, Rattle and Roll 6."

Delas Alas said Cory Vidanes, ABS-CBN semor vice president for television, asked to discuss with her statements she had made expressing how unhappy she was over the Kapamaya network's lack of interest

in promoting her TV shows. Delas Alas is a mainstay of Channel 2's late night sitcom, "My Juan and Only," and host of the show biz talk program, "Entertainment Konek."

"I didn't mean to offend anyone. I merely expressed my opinion. It's my fault-I'm so talkative. Next time, handi na 'ko dadaldal," Delas Alas told us during a visit to the IN-QUIRER offices in Makan City, "The meeting went okay. I have apologized to her."

She recounted, "During the press con, reporters asked me, 'Masaya ka ba sa Dos?' My answer was, 'Mas magiging masaya lahat kung kahit one-fourth lang ng ginawa nitang pag-promote sa PBB ("Pinoy B.g Brother") ay ginawa neto so lahot ng shows.' What I said was true But I guess I was just used to having many shows on ABS-CBN last year."

According to her, Vidanes mostly explained the need to promote PBB. "Tita Cory said it was because the people were camoring for it. I got the point."

Are you happy about doing another "Shake Rattle Roll" movie (for the Metro Manila Film Festival thus year]?

Actually, nostalgic ang dating ni-to sa akin. I was in "Shake" 1, 2 and

3. The last one was with IC Mendoza and Gina Alajar. Dologo no st IC ngayon (laughs) Peque Gallaga. directed all my "Shake" episodes. Now, I'm with Gloria Romero, Biboy Rammez, Marco Alcaraz, Yasmien Kurdi and Rainier Castillo.

What's it like working with Glo-

She's very professional. If you tell her to be there at 6 a.m., she will be there at 6 a.m., made up, and all her lines memorized.

We heard you had a problem with Rauuer.

Yes. It happened on the set. He was seven hours late. But it turned out [that] it wasn't his fault. He was simply

following instruc-TAKE DOMS. Naawa ako

Didn't a similar incident happen to you before?

Yes, several years ago. I had to leave the set of Vic Sotto's "Okay Ka Fairy Ko" to go to Broadway Centrum in Quezon City for Martin Nievera's show, "MAD." Pogbalik ko nagkaroon ng problema. I was very scared kasi haharap ako kay Tita. Chat (the late Charito Solis). Tinatakot pa ako ng staff. They kept

Did she get mad?

needs to sleep on time."

100PS/ AZ-4

saying, "Mag-sorry ka, mag-sorry No naman, I told her, "Tita Chat, sorry po. Hindi na po maindit." She said, "Don't do it again. Aiza (Seguerra, child star in the cast) I also had a bad expenence while filming "Wooly Booly: Ang Classmate Kong Alien." The crew forgot to tell me I was no longer needed on the set. I waited from 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. of the next day When I found out that I wasn't included in the line-up, namura ko yung assistant director. I walked How's your American exboyfriend?

Changes at the CEB?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SINCE THE DEATH OF FORmer Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) chair Zeneida "Bibot" Amador in November 2004 and the departure of former Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) head Laurice Guillen in October 2005, rumors of major changes in the CEB have been circulating industry-wide.

New chair

The CEB-created along with the FDCP through Republic Act No. 9167—falls under the PDCP and is tasked to give tax rebates to well-crafted local films. Rated A films are granted 100 percent unusement tax rebate: films

graded B get 65 percent rebate.

An insider informed Inquire Entertainment on Tuesday that Christine Dayrit will soon assume the post of CEB chair, currently occupied by Jackie Atienza who also acts as FDCP head.

According to the FDCP website, Dayrit, currently a CEB member, is a newspaper columnist and PR director of the Miladay Group of Companies. She has been a member of the executive committee of the Manila Film Festival (and, later, the Cinemantla Film Resuval) for the past three years.

As executive producer for her own Christine Films, she released TV movies like "Walang Katapusang Wakas* and *Habu-

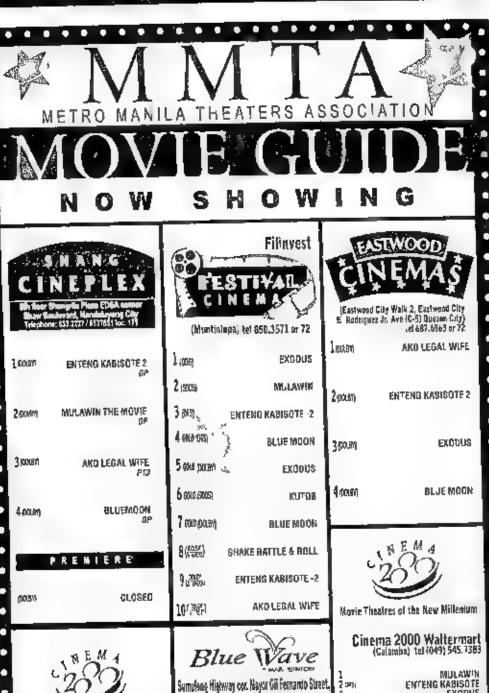
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TEAMWORK PRODUCTIONS & ZENNET WONLD PRODUCTIONS, INC. ... ANG PINAKA KWELANG JAMAY NG TAUN MAHYAK KA SA KATATAWA! Assunta de Rossi Juliana Palerino Chin Chin Gutierrez Glydel Mercado Ricky Davao & Cog e Domingo Also starring Cristine Reyes Janna Victoria Roy Alvarez Paolo Serrano Ken Punzaian GIL M. PORTES NOW SHOWING AN ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

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OF AGE AND ABOVE

Magic, the Vegas way, in 'Spellbound'

"SPELLBOUND," THE MAGIC SHOW AT Araneta Cobseum (until Jan. 8) is an entertaining combination of "traditional" magical tricks, modern updates, and Las Vegas verve for kids and grownups alike.

The Las Vegas element is contributed by leggy dancers who frame each segment of the show with highkicking numbers that expand the entertainment context of the show beyond its rather intimate and standard acts of prestid gitation. Nestor U. Torre

VIEWFINDER

"Speilbound" stars the veteran duo act of Michael Giles and Stacey Jones, billed as The Majestix, whose expertise and flair hark back to traditional presentations of this nature.

Newer magic acts are represented by a relatively young magician with a less grand, more personal approach that clicks with the teens and children in the audience. He employs audience participation gambits

that enliven the proceedings, including getting 'volunteers" to participate in his routines. This gives the audience "representatives" to

root for-or laugh at, as the case may be. To make the young magician's portion even more different, he performs with all of the coliseum's house lights on. This is in marked contrast to the traditional magic acts' sections, which use a

iot of dramatic lighting for greater suspense. Interestingly, the young magician's best act requires no magic at all: ala Houdini, he gets out of a straitjacket through sheer skill, careful planning, determination and impressive physical plasticity.

Heroic

CAN LE YOUR CINEMA!

We like this act because it shows that the "impossible" can be achieved, not just through illusion, but also with sneer mental and physical abil my and bno.

Aside from the show's magical elements, it also boasts of a "Cirque"-like act, The Human Design,

which has three men of truly heroic physical prowess creating awebeautifu. somely "sculptures" with their own bodies.

The act is breathtak ing and beautiful, and it alone is worth the admission show's

Also impressive is the act of two gauchos from Argentina, who wow the crowd with their skills at drumming, wielding the Argentinian botezdores, and entertaining the audience with their lively patter.

These and other acts make "Spelibound" a decidedly mixed bag of tricks, so the producnon can be faulted on point of disunity and lack of themane focus. But the mix is entertaining, so the variety show flavor really is of no great moment. Enjoy the show for what it is, and you should have a Happy New Year

'American Idol'

ON JAN 17, "American Idol" kicks off its fifth season on ABC-5 After producing the stellar ukes of Kelly Clarkson, Reuben Studdard, Fantasia Barrino and Carrie Underwood, the US-wide search for exceptional singers is bent on discovering its latest batch of stars.

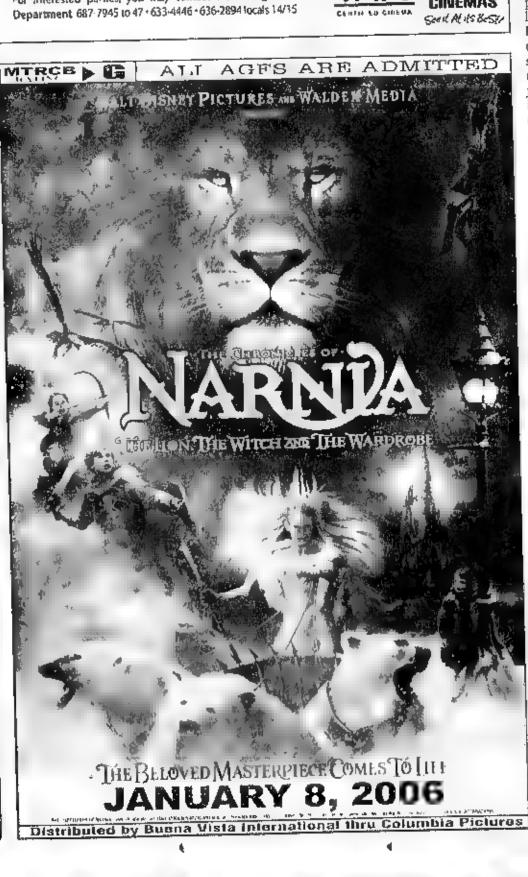
'So You Think You Can Dance'

CURRENTLY being telecast on ABC-5 (Fndays at 10 p.m.) is another talent search, this great for ume dancers-thus its title, "So You Think You Cart Dance."

The last time we caught the show, two finalists, Fil-Am Lacayanga Melody and Ryan Conferido, were still among the survivois. The advance word is that Ryan won't stay the course, but Melody will survive up to the final showdown-so, let's keep watching, and rooting for "our" best bet.

Feedback

From Jose Mari C. Maycacayan of Bt-Rezal. navigonan, "You're the best televi ston and film entic I know. Your objectivity MAGIC/A2-3



THURSDAY, **JANUARY 5, 2006**

MARCOJALCARAZ

ENTERTAINMENT

A2-3

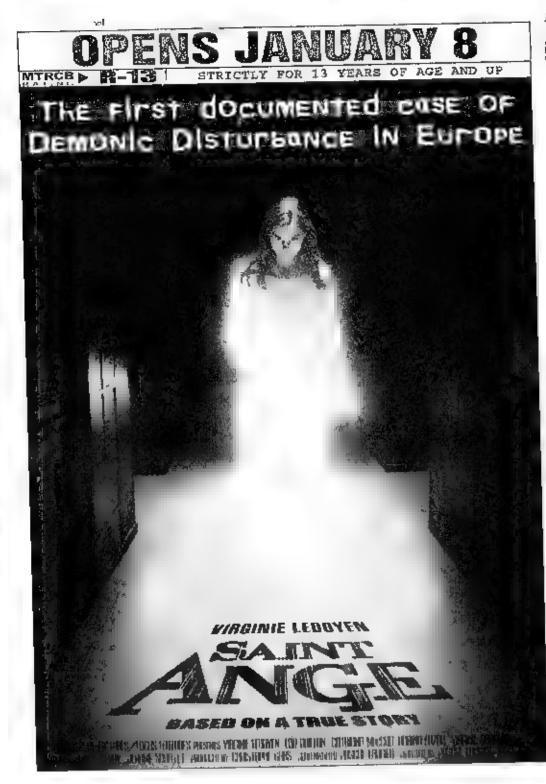
From page A2-2

Magic, the Vegas way, in 'Spellbound'

artists' endeavors. Please continue your "Let us unite to save and uplift our patronage of and help for relevant and outstanding television and film pro-







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Blue Moon*



Enteng Kabkole 24



• Lagot Ka Sa Mourning Girls





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12-4

ENTERTAINME 'Oops, I did it again'

From page A2-1

I've not spoken to him for four months now. There's something wrong with him. One time, he sent me a text message that said, 'Good morning, Angel.' And then in afternoon, another [message], You sucki' 'Di ba nakakaloka? I don't want anything to do with him anymore. I also don't want to talk about him. Baka naman sabihin n'ya, porke't wala s'ya dito sinisiraan ko

So you're still searching for Mr. Right?

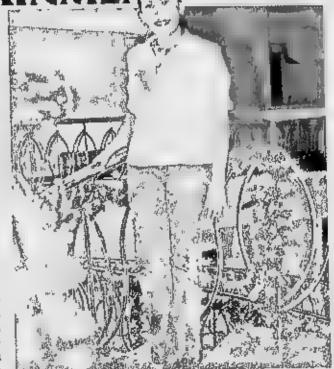
I've stopped looking. Gantto na lang muna ako. Some-

times, I go out on dates no-

You've been in the business for 15 years, is there anything else you wish

I'd like a new TV show and a new movie. I still

have to do three for Star Cinema. I have one movie for Regal Entertainment. I'd like to work with Ate VI (Vilma Santos) in a movie someday. I also wish to be paired with Tito Dolphy, Robin (Padilla), Aga (Muhlach), Piolo (Pascual), Mega (Sharon Cuneta) and Judy Ann (Santos).



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MULAWIN

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Changes at the CEB?

From page A2-1

lin ang Pagbaba ng Araw" and "Quest Files," aired on GMA 7 in the 1990s. She also produced 51 tele-movies with Four Aces in the late '90s. In 1992, she co-produced "Andres Manambit" and "Hiram na Mukha" with Viva Films.

Another CEB source floated a different name, Bernadette Valdez, as candidate for chair. The website gives no information on Valdez.

"I expect a new chair to be appointed by Malacañang anytime soon," Attenza told inourer En-tertamment. "As of now, I am concurrently FDCP head and CEB chair. Yes, I've heard about [Dayrit's nomination], but I wasn't the one who recommended her. Malacaffang will make the final decision."

Atienza also commented on a rumored "over hauf" of the CEB membership. "There's a limit to the number of years a member can serve, which is three years. As of now, there are eight to 10 members who cannot be reappointed on that account and will have to be replaced."

There are 28 CEB members at present.

Top contenders for MMFF awards

A total of 17 male artists are vying for Best Actor, said Tieng. Marvin will compete with big favorites Dennis Trillo, Eddie Garcia and Christopher de Leon-stars of "Blue Moon."

Tleng also pointed out that, for Best Director, Reyes will have to fight it out with Laman-gan ("Blue Moon") and Erik Matti, who directed Ramon "Bong" Revilla's fantasy flick, "Tales of the Enchanted Kingdom: Exodus."

Cherrie Pie Picache ("Ako Legal Wife") is a favorite for Best Supporting Actress, but so is Pauleen Luna in "Blue Moon" and Alessandra de Rossi in "Kutob," said Tieng.

He added: "Matunog ang pangalan ni Ryan (Agoncillo) for Best Supporting Actor (Ryan's name keeps cropping up)." But he said Ryan is headed for a "tough battle" with Trillo, if the board of jurors decides that the latter should be nominated for Best Supporting Actor.

"Dennis shows first-rate acting in 'Mulawin," Tieng stressed, "We have so many good actors these days, you'll be surprised." According to Tieng, the MMFF has includ-

ed box-office results as a factor in deciding which film would win Best Picture. "But it is not a dominant criterion," he added Tony Reyes' "Enteng Kabisote 2 Okay Ka

Fairy Ko, The Legend Continues" is currently the festival top-grosser. "Exodus" is in second place, while "Mulawin," directed by Dominic Zapata and Mark Reyes, is in third. That's why we shouldn't be surprised if

one of the three fantasy films wins one of the

three Best Picture awards," Tieng said The Best Picture wins P750,000; Second Piccure, P500,000; Third Best Leisure Guide. *** Picture, P300,000.

Another notable change in the festival rules is the increase in cash prize for winners of acting awards, said Tieng, "From last year's P50,000, the Best Actor and Actress will now get P70,000 each. This year, winners in mafority of the categories, including Best Screenplay, will get cash prizes.

The Best Float winner in the "Parade of the Stars" held on Christmas Eve will receive P500,000; runner-up, P350,000, and third placer, P150,000.

Tleng said this year's board of jurors is a smaller group of nine members, compared to last year's 13, "We cannot divulge their identities at this time," he told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday. "The deliberations are not yet finished."

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MOURNING GIRLS

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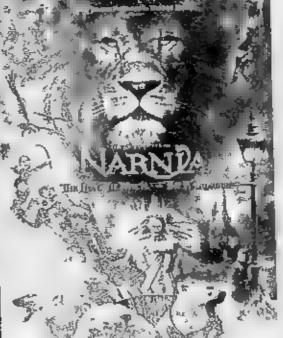
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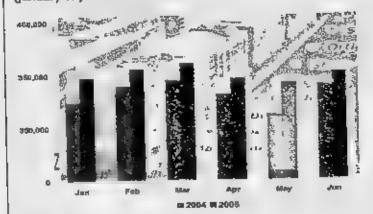
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Peso poised to break into 51:\$1

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Average daily MRT ridership (January to June 2004 and 2005)



Source: Department of Transportation and Communication AVERAGE delty ridership for Metro Rail Transit (MRY) Corp. a Metrostar Express rains for the first six months of 2005 posted a 5.6-percent year-on-year increase from 2004 Last year the everage daily ridership from January to June stood at 331 650, this year if went up to 350,081. The MRT Line 3, nichnamed the Bug Line after the color of its trains, traverses Edea from Telf Avenue in Passey CRY. to North Avenue in Quezon City.

Jamie Ataroon, PCX Research

Gains another 23.5 centavos to close at 52.425

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO RALLIED FURTHER TO 52.37 BEFORE closing at a new three-year high of 52.425 to the dollar yesterday on strong regional currency markets and rosy domestic fiscal prospects.

The local currency may even break into the 51 level once the government delivers the projected revenues from the 2-percent-sold," he said. age increase in value-added tax (VAT) rate after February, said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines.

The trend is toward appreciation. Of course, it can't be all the way up because sooner or later, it needs a healthy correction. But the uptrend is intact," Hilado said in an interview yesterday.

"The direction is toward \$1.50-52.\$1 but not too soon because the market is becoming over-

The local currency yesterday gained another 23.5 centavos from Tuesday's closing of 52 66 against the greenback on heavy volume of \$622.5 million at the Philippine Dealing System

Hilado said next month's increase in the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent-the single fiscal reform deemed as necessary to sta-

bilize the government's bud- the peso." get-would bring in more foreign investments to local stocks and

But as the currency was inching closer to the 52 level, he said it would attract some corporate demand such as from those with foreign debt servicing or importation requirements.

Expected proceeds from a fresh global bond offer by the national government worth at least \$1.5 billion likewise boosted sentiment on the peso, currency traders said

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "Continuing positive sentiment, some foreign exchange inflows, absence of significant doilar demand and weaker donar against other currencies buoyed

During the Estrada regime, the peso traded between 46.25 and the record low of 56.45 against the dollar. As such, traders said it was possible for the peso to appreciate even toward midway those levels or at about 50-51 to

The local stock market was seen to have ended a seven-year downturn in 2001 while the peso bottomed out late last year. The peso was trading at about 56.30 in September last year, improving to 55 90 in October and sharply appreciating since

The peso was likewise aided by the weakening of the US dollar in Asian trade on expectation that the US Federal Reserve would

BETWEEN MARCH AND MAY

Gov't readies sale of RPN 9, IBC 13

By Michelle V. Remo

vatize two state-run television stations before the end of May, the government's Privanzation and Management Office (PMO) announced yesterday.

The sale of IBC-13 and RPN-9 television stations would take piace separately between March and May, the PMO said in a statement, adding that it had chosen CLSA Exchange Capital Inc. as its lead adviser in the sale.

It did not say how much the government was expecting from the sale but the finance department had set a conservative target of P500 million in revenue from privatizing state assets this

CLSA bested six other firms THE GOVERNMENT WILL PRI- that were included in the short list chosen by the PMO to help it privatize the media assets.

"CLSA has extensive media investment banking experience in Asia, having completed 36 media transactions worth over \$3 billion," the PMO said. CLSA has likewise completed transactions for seven broadcasting companies, it added.

Privatization chief Jose A.R. Bengzon III said CLSA would provide the advisory services for the privatization of both television stations, but clarified that Channels 9 and 13 would be sold sepa-

With the help of the financial adviser and the attractiveness of It raised about P8 3 billion the state-owned assets among the

private sector, the PMO said the privatization was likely to be completed between March and May this year.

He said the would-be buyers of the television stations must be Filipmo-owned as the Constitution requires that media outfits should be held by Filipinos.

The government has decided to place Channels 9 and 13 in the list of state-owned assets to be privatized, having adopted the policy of giving up responsibinty over companies that are deemed better run by the pri-

The PMO and the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) have exposures in RPN 9, while the PCCG holds equnty investments in IBC 13.

Fiscal authorities agreed with Manula Electric Co.

the privatization of the television stations, which were not profitable, also to lessen the financial burden on the government.

The government said proceeds from privatization would be used mainly to fund infrastructure projects that cannot be accommodated by an insufficient national budget

In 2005, the government easily surpassed its goal of generating P500 million from the privanzation program after it sold bulk of us shares in Philippine National Bank to the Lucio Tan group for about P2 billion.

Other government assets intended to be privatized this year are PNOC EDC, Philippine Postal Corp., Al-Amanah Bank, and shares in San Miguel Corp. and

2'TAHW INSIDE

Reynolds plant sold for P365M

Coco oil exports up 15.8%: growth exceeds

goal

Court accepts CAP rehab piea

PLDT reviving unlimited P10/call plan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

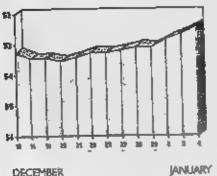
TELECOMMUNICATIONS GIANT PHILIPpine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday announced it was relaunching its unlimited cali service on a permanent basis

PLTD assistant vice president Gary G. Dujalı said the promotion was revived upon approval of the National Telecommunications Commission and the Department of Trade

Dujali said the promo would be back starting Jan. 7 and that subscribers could again avail themselves of lower call rates at P10 per call for national direct distance and landlineto-Smart cell phone calls

He said the unlimited call service was estimated to have made a significant contribution in bringing PLDT a positive net income growth rate in 2005 from the P28 billion it

CHRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE P 52.425 = S 1 115.99 = GOLD: \$533.30-533.80 per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 4, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.34% higher

SHARE PRICES closed 1 34 percent Nigher yesterday, supported by growing optimism on the economic outlook and the possibility Japanese telecoms giant NTT DoCaMo will invest \$300 million in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the dominant local carrier, dealers sald.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX PANUARY DECEMBER

(See stock number report on Page B2) Sharp gams in the regional markets following Wall Street's strong lead overnight also helped.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 28.26 points at 2 138.05 after trading between 2,109 79 and 2 144.04 Volume was 447 million shares worth P1 15 billion. The broader an-shares Index rose 17.51 points to 1,011.75. Gamers beat losers 68 to nine, with 38 stocks unchanged "This rise is really buoyed by investors" vote of confidence in the

cred t-rating apprades for the country," said Romme! Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities "The general expectation is that 2006 will be a good year," said

economy with the strong peso as an indicator, and expectations of

Mark Atan Canizares of Cittaeconime.com. "Investor optimism is being anchored on full implementation of the new value-added tax (VAT) law come February, which they hope will bring about a fiscally stronger national government," he

added. PLDT was the most actively traded stock, rising P35 to P1,850 following the announcement that NTT DoCoMo Intends to Invest \$300 million into the company.

Rival Globe Telecom Inc. gained P5 to P745. Ayala Land rose 25 centavos to P10.25 while SM Prime Holdings gained 10 centavos to P8.20. Megaworld Corp. advanced 10 centavos

San Miguel Corp "A" shares, limited to local investors, ended steady at PB5. San Miguel "B" shares, available to local and foreign investors, also closed unchanged at P69.50.

misses '05 goal by P15B

THE BUREAU OF INternal Revenue, which underwent a change in leadership last year, failed to meet its collection target for 2005 by P15 billion.

Preliminary documents showed that the BIR, the government's main revenue source, collected only P532 billion compared with its goal of PS47 billion

The PS32-billion collection, however, still did not take into account the P6 billion worth of noneash tax collection that the revenue agency was lobbying to be included in its collection performance for last year.

The P6 billion in non-cash tax payments were composed of documentary stamp taxes on government securities imposed on the Bureau of the Trea-

The BIR wanted this included in its performance record, stressing that it exerted the same amount of effort in collecting payments, whether the payment was made in the form of each or non-cash.

If the P6 billion would be considered in the revenue agency's 2005 collection performance, then the BIR's total tax take for last year BIR/ B2





tt was over a decade ago that we, at DuPont, sharpened our focus on environmental issues. Today, we are the global leaders in greenhouse gas reduction. DePont emissions are down globally by 72%, outdoing goals of 65% set for the year 2010. DuPont has cut energy use by 7% over the last 15 years, despite a 30% increase in goods produced. And with natural resources being depieted at a quick pace, we also aim to develop the world's first integrated corn based 'Bio-Refinery with help from the Renewable Energy Laboratory, USA. In the Philippines, DuPont achieved significant reduction in environmental footprint through the reforestation of Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve watershed.

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The miracles of science

LOW CLOSE

BUSINESS

Reynolds plant sold for ₱365M

Hike in NTT stake in PLDT not yet final, firm says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TELECOMMUNICATIONS GIANT PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday said Japan's NIT Docomo was looking at increasing its stake in the firm but nothing has been final-

PLDT corporate secretary Ma. Lourdes c. Rausa-Chan did not elaborate but told the Philippine Stock Exchange that details would be disclosed once the move was

The company issued the clarification following President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement Tuesday that PLDT chair Manuel V Pangilman had informed her of NTT DoCo-Mo's plan to invest \$300 million in the country's dominant carrier.

PLDT officials had neither denied nor confirmed the report.

NTT DoCoMo has a 15-percent stake in PLDT It is in turn 63 percent owned by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. of Japan.

During a broadcast of the President's television program, she said further that the investment planned to invest heavily in the Third Generation cellular phone business through its unit Smart Communica-

Earlier, the National Telecommunications Commission had granted Smart-along with three other carriers—the beense to operate a 3G system as well as the radio frequency spectra that it could use.

The NTC gave the licensees 30 months to start their 3G operations, which will allow faster transmission of large data, including

Megaworld named among Asia's best

PREMIER PROPERTY DEVELOPER MEGAworld Corp. has been recognized as one of the best Asian companies in Euromoney's December 2005 polls.

Megaworld ranked among the top Asian companies in a number of categories.

It was voted one of the best property players in the region, second only to SP Setia of Malaysta.

Megaworld trailed the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company as the top two Philippine companies with the "most convincing and coherent strategy."

Megaworld was also named among Asia's "most improved" companies.

Other Philippine companies in the roster were Banco de Oro and ABS-CBN.

For its 10th Asia Company polls, Euromoney had market analysts at leading banks and research institutes in the region rate 368 companies from various industries in the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Frompage B! Taiwan and Thailand.

Megaworld's results were based on market strength, profitability, growth potential and quality of management and earnings.

Euromoney noted that the year saw Megadeveloper of large-scale real estate projects that cater to all needs."

Creditor banks sell aluminum facility to Shanghai-based scrap company

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE CREDITOR-BANKS OF DEFUNCT Reynolds Philippines Corp. has sold the latter's foreclosed aluminum sheet plant to a Shanghai-based aluminum scrap company for P365 million.

Banking sources said the banking consortium, which includes Land Bank of the Philippines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., RCBC Savings Bank and AsiaTrust Development Bank, sold RPC's building and equipment in Dasmarinas, Cavite to the Chinese

The buyer, which offered to pay P365 million for the equipment, excluding the real property where the plant stands, was chosen from among four companies that submitted bids for the plant in October last

"Some of the equipment which are operational will be used for its operations in Shanghai, while the rest will be dismantled and will be used as scrap," one source

The trust group of Metrobank, which has a branch in Shanghai, is acting as trustee for the creditor-consortium.

After selling the assets, the creditor-banks will share in the proceeds from the sale.

Landbank, which has the biggest exposure to RPC, will have a 53-percent share, fol-

lowed by Metrobank with 38 percent.

"We have issued already the notice of award, but we're waiting for the completion of the 10 percent deposit," the source

The consortium has the right to forfeit the P5-million bond submitted by the winning hidder in case the sale fails through.

Meanwhile, the consortium has also received separate offers from reputable property developers for a potential joint venture on the development of the plant

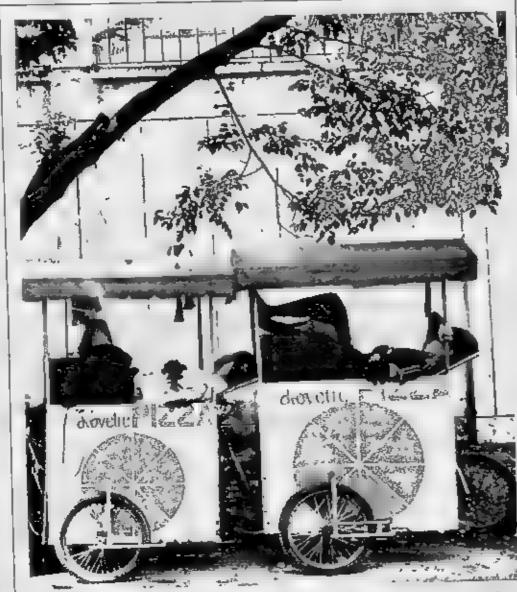
The property, which is near SM City in Dasmarinas, spans about 12 hectares and is valued at about P510 million.

It was decided that the property will be held by the consortium. The members agreed that the property is valuable," a sources said. "We can sell it but if the price is not acceptable to the consortium, we could do a joint venture, but the decision has to be

"We want to get the equipment out of the way first," the source added

RPC was established in 1954 by Reynolds International Inc.

it manufactures and distributes aluminum sheets, foil and extruded sections used in the packaging, container, construction, appliance manufacturing and vehicle manufacturing in-



PIZZA vendors take a map on top of their cart in suburban Quezon City, north of Manifa. in spite of the strength gained by the Philippine peso in the past weeks, the country still has an sluggish economy as the effect of the stronger peso will not be felt immediately. At

Peso poised to break into 51:\$1

soon end its spate of monetary tightening as well as weak industrial output data in the world's largest economy.

Minutes from the Ped's Dec. 13 meeting world "continue its track record as a premier showed that most Fed members believed "the number of additional firming steps required probably would not be large."

Likewise dimming prospects for the dollar was a recent survey of US manufacturing activity whose main index in December fell to 54.2 index points from 58.1 in

The US dollar also lost ground against the Taiwanese dollar, Indonesian rupuah, Singapore dollar, South Korean won and That baht

BIR misses '05 goal by P15B

From page B1

would be P538 billion, still P9 bilhon short of target.

Non-cash tax payments usually come in the form of Special Allotment Release Order (Saro), a document issued by a government entity to the BIR as a form of tax payment, and allows the national government to simply deduct the amount from the budget that is supposed to be allotted to that government enti-

Budget Coordination Committee National Treasurer Omar Cruz fear factor among delinquent tax-(DBCC), tasked with setting economic policies and targets of the government, already issued a circular allowing the BiR and the Bureau of Customs to include non-cash payments in the computation of their tax and duty collec-

But the move is being quesnoned by the Bureau of the Treasury, saying it was opposed to ini-

The interagency Development dressing its fiscal performance, ment rather than injecting the earlier said the Treasury, which releases official fiscal data, would only count revenues in the form of cash.

Pormer Deputy Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag was named BIR officer-in-charge in July and was formally appointed revenue commissioner in

Under Buñag's leadership, the tiatives that will make the gov- BIR said it preferred the policy of ernment look like it was window- encouraging voluntary tax pay-

payers. The BIR went slow on the Run After Tax Evaders (Rate) program since his assumption of the

New programs adopted by the BIR under Buñag included the Expanded Voluntary Assessment Program (Evap), which allows delinquent taxpayers to avoid tax audit as long as they voluntarily increase their tax payments by at least 20 percent. Michelle V. Re-

PLDT reviving unlimited P10/call plan

From page B1

posted in 2004.

Earlier, PLDT chair Manuel V Pangilinan had said the firm's 2005 net income could hit up to P32 billion, although he made the statement when the foreign exchange rate was at about P55 to

the dollar. The peso had breached the 53to-the-dollar level for the past two days, closing at about P52.60

Yesterday, Dujalı said PLDT received "thousands" of new applications for telephone lines as well as reconnection after the company first launched the unlimited call service early last year.

The promo was later stopped following complaints from competitors that PLOT's sister company Smart Communications was being given preferential access not available to other networks.

We are now working out with the NTC on how we can extend the service to other networks,"

For now, PLDT's more than 2 multion subscribers can call one another through NDD as well as the 20 million Smart subscribers at only P10 per call at a mmimal subscription fee of P50 a month,"

Dujali said the service guaranteed no cut-off time, no network an hour.

no hidden congestion and

He said that as a bonus, PLDT would throw in the first month subscription fee for free for those would would enlist before Jan.

Also, users of Vibe-PLDT's dial-up Internet service-who would subscribe to the unlimited call service could avail themseives of a special Vibe rate of P5

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| Asian Terminals Inc. | 174 | 1 74 | 174 | 134 17 | 5,000 40,000 |
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| i people inc | DIV | ERSIFIEDS | RVICES 6.2 | 6.2 | 388.000 |
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| Cashrounds Inc. | P | 4 | a mmr se | 4 2 | - 200,000 |
| " | Dis | SCLO! | SURE | S | |
| US | | D been | malata | he offerin | a of 12 million |
| fac- MANULIFE FINANC | MINE GUM | Chang & c | mpisidu haree Sa | ries 3 at \$5 | 25 a share, for |

4.5-percent non-cumulative, Class A shares Series 3 at \$25 a share, for a total of \$300 micton.

SAM Miguel Corp. has availed itself of and fully paid for 85,289 common shares at a par value of P5 a share, under its Long-Term Incentive Plan for Stock Options. Of these, 67,139 are Class A and 18,150 are Class B These shares will bring the total number of listed common shares to 10.59 million.

LAST Dec. 29, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s chairman of the board, Manuel V. Pangilinan, acquired 200 shares worth P1,825 each, bringing his beneficially owned shares (PCD account) to 2,500. On the same day, he bought 300 shares at P1,835 a share, increasing his beneficially owned shares (certificated) to 203,729. Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

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BUSINESS

Coco oil exports up 15.8%; growth exceeds goal Shipments seen dropping 10% this year due to drought

THE COUNTRY'S COCONUT oil exports rose 15.8 percent in 2005, but shipments in 2006 ernment official said yesterday.

The Philippines is the world's largest exporter of coconst oil

Preliminary export figures for 2005 of 1.11 million tons the agency was sticking to its were higher than the forecast forecast of 1 million tons of coof 930,000 tons set by an in-

are likely to fall by 10 percent dustry group, United Coconut ticipating that production ture. due to a drought last year, a gov- Associations of the Philippines, would be hit by the drought Production and Production are likely to fall by 10 percent dustry group, United Coconut ticipating that production ture.

of 980,000 tons for the year. Jesus Emmanuel Paras, ad-Coconut Authority (PCA), said conut of exports this year, an-

and the government's estimate caused by the El Nino weather

"There will be at least a 10ministrator of the Philippine percent reduction in (export) volume," Paras said. "The mild drought in 2005 could affect takes a year for coconuts to ma- tonnes this year.

Production of copra, the raw material from which coconut oil is extracted, climbed 9 88 percent in 2005 from 2004 to 2 612 million tons, data from the PCA showed

Copra output is expected to production and output." It fall 5.3 percent to 2.46 million

Most of the country's coconut oil output-used in the rope.

manufacture of aviation lubricants, cosmetics, soap and margarine—is shipped to the United States and Eu-

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Court accepts CAP rehab plea

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL COURT HAS accepted the petition for rehabilitation of embattled education plan provider College Assurance Plan Philippines (CAP), which allowed its receiver to start auditing the company's business recovery plan.

In an order signed on Dec. 16, Makati judge Romeo Barza of Branch 61 said the court found merit in the petition and that it was "sufficient to warrant" a referral to CAP's rehabilitation receiver, Mamerto Marcelo.

The court has yet to approve the rehabilitation plan based on the receiver's recommendations.

The court, which has yet to approve the rehabilitation plan, directed CAP's receiver to evaluate the plan within 30 days from the receipt of the order.

CAP segal counsel Gilbert Reyes said the recent court decision had, in effect, junked the comments filed by the Securities and Exchange Commutation (SEC) and some plan holders seek ing the liquidation of the company and the distribution of its assets to concerned parties.

SEC Chair Fe Barin declined to comment on this, saying the SEC has yet to be served a copy of the trial court's order.

This development has drawn flak from lawyer Maricel Lopez who represents more than 10,000 CAP plan holders. She said she was prepared to fight at any court to uphold the welfare of CAP's plan holders.

The current ruling of Judge Barza on the rehabilitation of CAP is not unexpected considering his earlier rulings granting the rehabilitation of Pacific Plans and Platinum Plans. We, however, welcome the early resolution of the case which gives us the opportunity to question the same in the appropriate appellate body," Lopez said in a statement

Barza, in the meantime, said in his order that the court has given "due course" to CAP's petition, after evaluating comments filed by various parties.

Barza also said that "the interest of the plan holders cannot be dismissed without a thorough evaluation by the rehabilitation receiver of CAP's chances to be restored to a successful operation"

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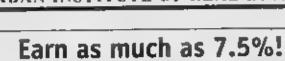
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Bangko Sentral issues new rules on banks' securities holdings

To raise extra money for their families back home, many Filipino domestic helpers in Hong

Kong do some selling on the side. Some sell waxed decor and glass beads they, themselves,

made which go for HK\$ 100 to HK\$ 200. Although pay is good enough compared to their old

jobs back home, many of these workers make use of their spare time to earn extra to add to

their remittances especially on Christmas or in time for enrollment,

By Doris C. Dumiao

GETTING INTO BUSINESS

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS revised the formula used in computing capital charges on banks' holdings of securities marked as "available for sale (APS)" as well as investments in reverse repurchase transac-

The change in the computation of capital charges on banks' market risk exposure aligned the BSP's capital guidelines to the newly adopted Philippine Accounting Standards No. 39, which considers only financial assets booked under the "held for trading" (HTM) category as "trading book" items.

Previously, all financial instruments that are marked to market or booked based on market values were included in the "trading book" of a bank and were subjected to market risk charge

With the new ruling of the Monetary Board, AFS and repos will be treated as part of the "banking book" subject to capital charge

A repo agreement refers to the purchase of securities with the agreement to sell them at a higher price at a specific future date

Under the Philippines' risk-based capital adequacy framework, which was patterned after Basle 1 standards, all bank assets are subject to a capital charge assessed according to whether these are "banking book" or "trading book" assets.

"Banking book" assets are subject to a capital charge for credit risk only while "trading book" assets are subject to a market risk charge.

The booking of structured products—securities with embedded derivatives or sophisticated instruments whose values are based on under lying goods or indices—was likewise revised in line with the new accounting standards.

These products can now be classified under any of the following "banking book" categories: designated at fair value through profit or loss (DFVPL), available for sale (AFS), held to maturity (HTM) and anquoted debt securines classified as loans

Under the BSP rules, financial institutions are required to classify their outstanding investments in debt and equity securities based on their intention for holding or purchasing the securities.

Securities intended to be held until maturity fall under the HTM category, replacing the investment in bonds and other debt instruments (Ibodi) account

The trading account securities (DAS) account---which consists of debt and equity securities purchased and held principally with the intention of seiling or repurchasing them in the near term-was renamed held-fortrading securities (HFT)

The new rules make it more difficult for banks to shuffle the securities from one account to another, as a "tainting" provision on HTM was introduced.

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT J.F. Laurel Ave., Davso City Tel. #221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The Devic City Water Duted, with the Approved Sudget for 2005 plends to apply the term of Thirteen Military Fasca and Signy, Seven Cents (#13,727,013,87) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Solisterters, Electrical Facilities and Controls, Eutomerable Reveludable Moror and Vertical Multi-Stage In-line Centrifugal Paying Electric Actuators, Chain Wranches (Chain Tong), Compact Cholentator Cabinet, Walf Mounted Chiorine Diparte Generator System and Chiorino Regulator, Verticus Compared Chiorine Diparte Generator System and Chiorino Regulator, Verticus Compared Parthwares & Softwares, Portable Pressure Recorder & Charl Paper Disc, Leak Defector and Full Cartridge Mechanical Seal, Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be substractedly spected at Bid operang.

2. The Davido City Water District now invites Bide from allights Bidders for the lottowing

| PACHAGE | DESCRIPTION | ABC |
|---------|---|----------------|
| 1 | 4 units — Softstanters (SONP 100HP 200HP & 250HP) | P 1 175,000 00 |
| * | 3 sets + Electrical Floatinus & Controls (PW e5 30 NP PW & VES \$1 250 MP & PW \$2 250 MP | P 5,880,413,87 |
| 3 | 3 units — Submersible Revendable Meters 100HP 125HP 8, 200 HP) 1 unit — 1 HP Vertical Auto-Stage In-Line Centraryal Pamp | P 1,852,000 00 |
| 4 | Burnet Electrical A. Isaacch | P 750,000 00 |
| - | 4 units Heavy Dudy Chein Wrenches (Chain Yong) | P 500,600 00 |
| 4 | 3 ures - West Networked Chiomes Oxionalis Generator System 2 aris - Chiomes Proposition | P 1,840,000.00 |
| 7 | Ne work Allac hed Storage and Soltware | P 800,000 00 |
| - | 1 set - Computer Network Firewart appliance | P 440,000 00 |
| 4 | 12 pcs — Drawing Soltware, Power draft 4 pcs — Corel Draw | P 560,000.00 |
| 10 | 2 sets - Computer Aded Design and Drafting Software 1 set - Water Disintation Modeling & Apresperant Software | P 1,980,800.0 |
| 11 | 2 sints - Portable Pressure Recorder with 4 pcs Cartridge pen and 10 boxes Chart Paper Disc | P 321,800.0 |
| 13 | 1 set - Leak Detecting Equipment constitute of Muki-point conceiver and electronic ground five opnions | P 2,000,000.0 |
| 55 | 6 pcs — Full Carledge Mechanical Seel | P 160,000.0 |

Detvery of the GOODS is required by <u>MAYA, 2005.</u> The description of an eligible Bidder list conserved in Section 8 of the Bidder glocure of S.

Bedding will be conducted through open competance hidding procedures using hondiscrizionary passifationals as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A
(RER-A) of Regulation 5.9.84 (RLA 9184), otherwise known as the "Concernment Procurement
Retorn Act, and is restricted to Teprio Chipmanise known as the "Concernment Procurement
less staty percent (80%) interest or orbitationing capital stock belonging to observe of inePhilippinest, and to observe or organizations of a country the lever or regulations of which grant
stricter only on the passion of Septimo observe, but lever or regulations of which grant
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subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 139). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the disposity
check will be opered. The process for the alignoidity chack to discribed in Section II of the
Bidding Documents. ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shoth advance to
the point qualification stage or cross to have by determine associations they old to fechnical
and branched concerned so the projet. The convex uses man be awarded to the coverCasculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) with was determined as such during the probqualification procedurit.

Interested Sidders may obtain further information from Daviso City Water District at the Sidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 s.m up to 5:00 p.m

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidding from the address tallow and upon payment of a rest-resultable fee in the amount of P1 500,000 package. The majord of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The David City Water Durnot will hold a Pre-Bid Conterence poen to all interested parties on JANIARY 15, 2006 at 8:00 a clock A.M. at DOWD \$4C-A Secretarial Office, J.F. Lewel

But and sightly requirements must be delivered to the address before on or before the bidding scheduled time and data at \$100 of stock A.M. All But must be accompanied by a bidding scheduled time and of the around to the propose of \$11,730 on for FACKAGE 1, P15,334.13 for PACKAGE 2, P16,230 of for PACKAGE 3, P15,900.00 for PACKAGE 3, P16,900.00 for PACKAGE 4, P5,900.00 for PACKAGE 4, P5,900.00 for PACKAGE 4, P6,900.00 for PACKAGE 5, P6,900.00 for PACKAGE 1, P6,900.00 for PACKAGE 1, P3,318.00 for PACKAGE 11, P30,000.00 for PACKAGE 12 and P3,900.00 for PACKAGE 13, Late Bale shall not be accept

Bid opening shall be at 6:00 efstock A.M. at DCYCO BAC-A Sepretaried Office, J.P. Leveret Aye., Batada, Daviso City on the following schedule

| PACKAGE No. | BIODING SCHEDULE TIME & DATE |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | February 1, 2,06,9,06 A M 1 |
| 7 | Embrudey 2008 cc. 00 P.M.) |
| 1 | Fair sery 2, 2006 of 50 A M. |
| 4 AND 5 | Fabruary 2, 2006 (2, 301; 513) |
| 4 | February 3, 200p (\$100 A M) |
| 7. 8 AND 1 | F480,005 1 2506 (200, MI) |
| 10 | Falcoury 6, 2000 (9,00 A M.) |
| 11 | February 6, 2006, 2,00 P.M. |
| | February J. 2005;9:30 A.M.) |
| 13 | February 7, 2006 (2,00 P.M.) |

flick will be opened in the presence of the Guiders' representatives who choose to attend at

The Device Cey Water District reserves the right to accept or report only the 1g annul the technique process, and to report as Gots of any time prior to contract award, without the step incurring any habitity to the affected Bidder or Bidder's

Daves City Water District J P Laurel Ave., Bamen, Daves City Tel. No. 321-9400 (8000) Lepati adal dowd@davbo-water gav pt 224-5392

(Sgd.) YIRGINIA B. MARHAON BAC. A Charperson POI-Day 25 2006 & Jan 6, 1605

"WE SERVE" INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT

The Begulo Water District, through its finds and Awards Controller (BAC), makes contractors registered with end classified by the Philippina Contractors Apprehimen Board (PCAB) to apply for exploitly and if found shipble, to be for the hereunder contract.

Installation of the remaining piping works for the rehabilisation and expansion of the deguic Wales System (Aus-AID Project) Name of Cortifoli.

expansion of the Beguid Water System (Auto-May Report)

Boguid City

The remarking plang works to be undertaken invalves the Installation of pipelines (50mm-400mm diameter), 14,852 Ltd., Gate valves, 38 units, 80m-od valve assembles, 19 units, Ar release valves, 7 units, Road parennent realization works, 2,627 csr m. Pressure reducing valve assembles, 56 units. Service reps, 1,060 units at versors auto-systems of the Beguid Water Castrict namely subsystems 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18

| Approved Budget fo | r the Sub-Eysterna (At | NG) | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Sup system 4 | P3 17 38 54 | Sub-system 11 | 97 22 484 ² 0 |
| Sub-system? | P3,443,775.34 | Sub-system 13 | P7 068.218 08 |
| Sub-system 6 | 93,167 200 77 | Sup-system 14 | P15 39 40 |
| Sup-system 10 | P4.768,085 12 | Sub-system 16 | P7 096 870 85 |
| | individually or per au | b-system | |

ective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, he completed a senior excess show presents a value Provide Licentee application to the contract, nine completed a senior contract with a value of at teast 50% of the ABC, and have any personnel and accompany (sated in the Eugobery Porms) available for the presention of the contract. The BAC will use a particular of the presention of the contract. The BAC will use approximately presented criteria in the Eugobery Checketic remaining as well as the Presiment of Edds. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the towest calculated bid.

All periodents relative to Eligibity Statement and Screening, Bid Security. Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference Evaluation of Sids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertonnal provisions of R.A. \$184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (RRR) The schedule of SAC is as follows:

BAC Activities

 Necessi from prospective beddes of Leiters of Intention (I. Ot) including Application for English y
 Receipt of English Requirements by the CAC
 Necessity of English Charles of Charles 3. Notice of Results of Eligibally Chack

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Expedity Forms at the Seguer Water Dated, Purch. BWD 003 Bgy Marcoville. Beguer City upon their submassion of a LOL and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Treasand Pasos (P2,000 00) to the Seguer Water Orange Cestiver Prospective bidders shall submatibe Expeditly Requirements to the BAC at the said dates. They may also obtain the results of the Expeditly Check by the BAC at the same address. The DAC will assue Bridging Documents only to builders declared by the DAC to be eligible for

The Sague Water Diginal beauties no responsibility whateover to compensate or industrial ters for any superses shoulded in the preparation of their tide.

The Baguro Water Desirct reserves the right to reject only and all botis, declare a failure of biology or not award the contract as pre-vised for under perhant provisions of R.A. 9164 (Sgd.) Engr SALVADOR M. ROYECA BAC - Projects Chemman

BIND Compound, Unity Read, Begulo City 2600 Philippines Admin 442-8539, 442-4228, 442-4228, 443-8463, Fisc No. 443-3468

January 19-25, 2008

Investments in housing programs sustained

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRA- guarantee-related obligations tion's efforts to accelerate the country's housing program continues to enjoy the support of private sector financiers, said Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC) president Gonzalo Benjamin Bongolan

Bongolan said the government managed to sustain the entry into the program of an average of P17 billion in new guarantee enrollments yearly since 2001.

These investments reached an alltime high of P20.7 billion in 2003 and had remained at about the same level in the past two years, he said.

Also, about 61 percent of the universal banks operating in the country are now actively backing the housing program, he added.

Bongolan said the sustained growth of private sector investments was triggered by an earlier move by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to restore the confidence of financial institutions in the government's capability to guarantee these investments.

the government's housing initiatives was at an ebb when Arroyo took over in 2001, Bongolan said. At that time, HGC was saddled with some P16.0 billion in unpaid trolled corporations.

arising from massive defaults in housing loans and investments.

Bongolan said HGC was directed by Arroyo to "undertake efforts to settle these guarantee calls and raise fresh capital," as the government's capability to continue mobilizing private sector funding for individual and mass housing rests on HGC's ability to ensure that guaranty calls are responded to efficiently.

The successful assuance of HGC zero-coupon bonds was the signal of a turn around in investor confidence. Bongolan said the first issuance ferched some P4 28 billion which was used to settle guarantee calls. This was an important signal that the Arroyo government has the ability to meet its obligations to private sector participants in the housing program, he added.

Bongolan said the HGC had settled all private sector obligations under the agency's retail and individual housing and de-Private sector confidence in velopment guaranty programs. The remaining unpaid guarantee obligations are owed entirely to government financial institutions and government-owned and conPHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Messengerial & Other Mangower Requirements of PEIA The Philippine Economic Zone Authority PEZA, through its Corporate Operating Sudget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 6 36,080 26 bland the Approved Budget in the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Jantigret. Messengerial and Other Management Regular hands of PEZA, Rich received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically

ed at Bid opening The PEZA now invitee Bids from elligible Bidders for the Janticrial. Measuringerital and Other Manpowar Requirements of PEZA, The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. (78)

Bidding with as conducted intrough open compatitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass, all criteria as executed in the implementing Ruder and Regulations Park A. IRR A. of Republic, Act. 3-84 (R.A. 3-18), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act, and is estincted to Filiphia obtained known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act, and is estincted to Filiphia obtained properties beginning to discretions with at local early percent (60%) interest on distancing capital stock betongeny to discretion the Philippines and to critisans or organizations of a country the taws or regulations of the Philippines and privateges in Filiphia critisans, pursuant to Republic Act. 5: 63 (R.A. 5: 63) and subject to Commonwealth Act. 36: Only Bids from Sidders who pass line elopibility check with the opened. Prospective tridders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the fighting of the Sidders with the Lowest Calculated Sid (C.B. Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bridder with the Lowest Calculated Sid (C.B. Shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finely determine responsivements of the bid to technical and financial registements of the project. The contract that then be ewarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification stage in order to finely determine inserting as such during the post-qualification from the PEZA and Inspect the Bidding Inserted as such during the post-qualification from the PEZA and Inspect the Bidding Inserted as a finely of the post-qualification for the PEZA and Inspect the Bidding Inserted as a finely of the post-qualification for the PEZA and Inspect the Bidding Inserted as a finely of the post-qualification for the PEZA and Inspect the Bidding Inserted as a finely of the Biddi

determined as such during the post-quartication procedure transpared bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and, inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during bids intours. Mondays to Findays. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by triansed Bidders from 06 to 13 January 2006. Mondays to Fridays. B:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at this address below end upon payment of a contained below that around of PPP2 5:00 00 and submission of a cachillad copy of the 10-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or bis authorized impresentative.

The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Contenence open to all interested parties on 17 January 2006, 2.00 p.m. at the 5" Picor, Social Half, Almede Building IR, Rosse Boulevard corner San Lule St., Possey City

Postary City
Bids and aligibility requirements must be defined to the address below on or before 11-00 a m
of 31 January 2008. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of CStS Surety
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representatives who choose to attend

9 In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.

10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to sometime bridding process, and to reject at Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any subtiny to the adected Bidson or Bidden. Philippine Scoromic Zone Authority
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The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION now invites Bids from aligible Bidders for GOODS as its ad balow. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section—of the Bidderg Documents. Instruction to Bidders. TB) Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-descretionary persital charters exceptived in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Regulation Act 9184 19.A 9 84, otherwise known as the "Covernment Productionent Reform Act" and sirestricted to Filippino Chizanstipile originalistic organizations with at least sorty percent (60% interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to chizans of the Philippines, and to otherwise or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar, rights to provide the Philippines, and to otherwise or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar, rights to provide the Philippines. Act 9 80 (R A 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 980 (C A 18 Gray Bids tront Bidding pursuant to Republic Act 9 80 (R A 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 18 80 (C A 18 Gray Bids tront Bidding who pass the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. The The bidding with the Lowest Calculated Sid (LCB) shall advance to post qualification stage in order to health determine responsivees of the bid to rechnical and tinencial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRS) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.

interested Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 AM to 3:30 F Documents shall start on January 5, 2006 from 8:30 AM to 11.30 AM, Monday to Friday. No Bid Documents will be

beund on the date of bidding A complete set of Blidding Documents may be purchased by interested Blidders from the address below and upon payment of a normalishdable less in the arrount as listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his supported representative.

The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the dates. stow at National Power Corporation's available function rooms Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the dates as listed below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form or cash, cartilled check, cash, of a check, bank draft or invevocable letter of credit equivalent to one percent; 1.5%; of the ABC. Sonk guarantee squivalent to one and a half percent; 1.5%; of the ABC. Surely bond equivalent to two and a half percent; 2.5%, or the ABC. Foreign guarantee equivalent to one

hundred percent (100%) of the ASC, or an equivalent amount in a freely conventible currency uses Sids shall not be Bid operang shall be on the dates as fisted below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bridder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below

CTEMS FOR BID APPROVED BUDGET | BIO DOCS ITEM DESCRIPTION PRINUMBER SCHEDULE POR THE CONTRACT. PRICE DATE OF RE-BIDDING , BIDDING , JANUARY 20, 2006; 2:00 PM P 6,680,000.00 9 3,000,00 DIESEL 1% BLEND OF ODCONUT METHYL OWN1-05-096 (EA) 181 ESTER 6 99" DIESEL FUEL BICOCO-BIODIESEL) IPB2 P 3,000 00 FUE, UNLEADED GASOLING FOR HIGH P 5,600 000 00 OWIT-05-097 (EA) 42 COMPRESSION ENGINE IP52: P 2., 09,850-00 VARIOUS MEDICAL AND DENTAL SUPPLIES 183. OIRO 05-025 (ZC)

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Day before publication



Our Dearly Beloved MAMAPO

Gloria Albay Maranan

peacefully joined our Creator on January 2, 2006 at the age of 77

Her bereaved family, husband Engr. Ismael Maranan; her children and in-laws AI-AI & Boying, JOY & Eric, MOMEN & Gerry, EPOY & Ennie, Fr. ALOY, O.S.B., RIC & Grace and WIWI & Jener; her grandchildren Princess & Edward (†); Aileen, Ericson, Anna & Jonn: Von, Noel & Jerome; E-Z Boy; Trina & Czarie; and Je-ann and her great grandson Gelo, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Maranan's Residence in Concepcion, Alitagtag, Batangas

Interment will be on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at Alitagtag Cemetery after 9:30 am Mass to be held in La Invencion dela Sta. Cruz Church, Alitagtag, Batangas.



"Lor God so loved the world, that Be gave Bis only begotten Son that / / whoever believes in Sim shall not perish but - !! have everlasting life. Nrr.

ohn 3:16

In Loving Memory of the First Death Anniversary of

who peacefully joined our Lord on January 5, 2005.

Masses will be offered on January 5, 2006 as follows

Parish of St. Jarome Emiliani 5 00 am (Alabang, Muntiniupa) Parish of St. James the Great 6, 20 am (Ayaia Alabang Village)
Alabang Country Glub (Ayala Alabang Village) 6 30 pm 6 45 am Marcelo Green Village (Parañaque) Mary the Queen Parish (Ortigas, Greenhills, SJ) 7 00 pm

His family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his sou

WE BESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

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ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (formerly Public Estates Authority) is inviting all interested parties to prequalify and bid for the lease of twelve (12) pre-selected sites for outdoor biliboard advertising along the landatrip of Cosetal Road from Berangay Tambo, Parañaque lo Barangay saya, Las Piñas City.

2. Qualified Bidders

a. Any Filipino offizen, of tegal age, and

- any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 70% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to ditizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
- Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable tee of THRES THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) in cash or Manager's/Cashler's check starting December 22, 2005 until January 24, 2006 from B-00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legespi Towers 200, Passo de Roxas, Makati City
- The first pre-bid conference is achieduled on January 18, 2006 at 2:00 PM at the PRA Conterence Room, 6th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Passo de Roxes, Makati City
- Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PRA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on January 25, 2006 on or before 1:00 PM. Public opening of bide shall follow at 1:38 PM of the same day.
- 6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7104 (direct line)

(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD General Manager/CEO

(PDI-Osc. 16, 19, 25, 2006, Jan. 5, 10 & 16, 2006)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for Sale are sevan residential lots formerly belonging to the Peninsula Development Bank (Penbank), whereby six lots are located at Peninsula Homes, Subdivision, Berangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon; and one lot is located at San Vicente, Gurnaca, Quezon.

These seven residential lots are being offered on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, as follows:

Peninsula Homes Subdivision, Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon

| SITE NO. | TCT NO. | LOT NO. | AREA (eq.m.) | INDICATIVE PRICE |
|----------|----------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 | T-390084 | Lat-8 | 120 | 54,000 |
| 2 | T-390103 | Lot-6, Blk. 6 | 230 | 150 000 |
| 3 | T-390089 | Lot-7 Blk 6 | 204 | 133,000 |
| 4 | T-390051 | Lot-6 | 89 | 67,000 |
| 5 | T-390061 | Lot-12, Blk. 6 | 227 | 148 000 |
| 6 | T-390078 | Lot-1 | 117 | 47 000 |

San Vicente, Gumeca, Quezon

| SITE NO. | TCT NO. | LOT NO. | AREA (eq.m.) | INDICATIVE PRICE |
|----------|----------|----------|--------------|---------------------|
| 7* | T-411949 | Lat-9239 | 348 | 49 000 |

*With informal dwellers

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of offerors on 17 January 2008, 6th Floor, PMO Conference Room, NDMC Bulkling, 104 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the Offer for Sale documents for a nominal tes of P300.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 104 Gemboa Street, Lagaspi Village, Maxall City.

For more information, please call Mr John DF Baidemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-8331 or 817-8762.

(PDI: Jan. 3, 4 & 5, 2006)



TO MENTAL THE WANTED TO LEGISLAND IT

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Maynka, Pilipinea

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID The Bangko Senkel no Připinan, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC),

invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for hite hereunder project

| Name of Project/Brief Description | 185 chile Workstellon/Dosktop per BSP specifications and scope of work | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Approved Budget for the Contract | P14,495.000.00 | | |
| Dolivery Period | Within forty-live (45) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract | | |
| Protective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last live (\$ | | | |

years with an amount of at least 60% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Pretminary Examination of Side shalf use nondecreasing "pass/laif" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shell be conducted All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance

Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Quesposition and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its (mplementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of autivities is fisted, as follows:

| fred men threat con- | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Activities | Schedule |
| 1 Issuence of Bid Documents | 28 Dec. 2005 19 Jan 2006, up to 2:00 PM only |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | 20 January 2006, 4:00 PM |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 07 February 2006, 2:00 PM |
| 4. Bid Evaluation |) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed |
| 5 Post-qualification |) periods allowed in the implementing Rules & |
| 5. Notice of Award |) Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated |
| the state of the state of |) 10 January 2003 |
| | |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective biddars upon payment of a nonrefundable amount of P7,250.00 to the BSP Ceshler The BSP assumes no responsibility who acever to componente or indemnify bidders

for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposale, or declare the bidding a fallure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Spd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR. Cherman

People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Pagcor chief receives **CEO** Excel Award

Corp (Pageor) Chair and CEO Efraim C. Genuino was recently cited by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), Philippines for his outstanding leadership qualities and exemplary communication capabilines.

Chair Genuino received a Communications Excellence in Organizations or CEO Excel Award from the IABC in the "Government Executive Agencies, GOCC's and LGU's" category last Dec. 6, during the awards night held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City. The winners in other categories were Finance Secretary Gary Teves, Ayala Land CEO Jaime Ayala, Philip Morris managing director Chris Nelson, HSBC CEO Warner Manning, PLDT SVP Menardo Jimenez Jr., Unilever Philippines GEO Howard Belton, Manila Mayor Lito Abenza and Isabela Governor Grace Padaca.

The CEO Excel Awards is the local version of the international IABC Excel Award, which recognizes senior executives who have successfully harnessed communication in advancing the reputation, enhancing the profitability, or actueving major objectives of their organizations.

Chair Genuino was acknowledged for his keen understanding of the needs of his employees, which are one of the major stockholders of

PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING his communication programs. By lifting the morale of the Pageor personnel, through enhanced benefits such as salary increases and a greatly improved medical plan, a significant increase in the productivity of employees was noted. This, in turn, translated to higher profits for the corporation.

The low-key chief executive was lauded for raising the revenues of the state-run gaming firm to new record-breaking heights. During his term, Pagcor's total annual income of P14.64 billion in 2000 rose to as high as P20.21 billion in 2004, or an increase of almost P6 billion in just four years. In 2002, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) even cited Pagcor as one of the most profitable corporations in the

In 2005, Pageor is expected to reach, if not surpass, its target annual income of P23 billion. Likewise, Chair Genuino earned the judges'

nod for his hands-on approach to the various socro-civic and developmental projects being undertaken by the state-run gaming firm, such as the Serbisyo Muna project of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This project is a major component of the Pageor chair's communication program geared towards increasing public awareness and acceptability of the corporation.



GLOBE TELECOM GETS PREFERRED 3G SPECTRUM FROM NTC

Globe Telecom is now set to roll out its 3G service as the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) granted Globe its preferred 3G spectrum. The 1945-1955 Megahertz (MHz), 2135-2145 MHz radio frequency bands awarded to Globe would allow the company to rapidly deploy 3G and deliver superior quality 3G services in the country. At the awarding of 3G frequency spectrum at the NTC were (from left) Globe

regulatory affairs head V. Frollan M. Castelo, Globe wire ess network technical group head Emmanuel R. Estrada, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge V. Sarm-ento. Globe senior vice president Rodolfo A. Salanma, NTC Commissioner Ronald C. Solis, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jaime M. Fortes, Jr., Globe paralegal and admin services head Gallardo T. Auson, and Globe public relations head Lones T. Campos.

ANGEL HAPEE TO BE PART OF SEA GAMES

TV actress and Happe toothpaste endorser Angel Locsin's smile exudes the joy and honor of being part of the opening rites of the historic Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) held at the Quirino grandstand. Angel's presence added prestige and plamour to the momentous event. Her participabon was made possible by Lamoiyan Corp, maker of the Hapen toothpaste line, which served as a major sponsor for the sporting meet. Angel is Hapse's endorser who is the perfect model of

modern-day Filipmos, young, dynamic and with penchant for anything 'Pinoy' Recognizing the sporting meet as an emportant opportunity to showcase Filipino athleticism and foster camaraderie amongst Southeast Asian nations, Lamdiyan Corp left no stone unturned to secure the sporting meet's success. Hapee, the company's toothpaste line was the official toothpaste of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, Angel is shown here during the opening rites of the SEA Games



BAX CITED IN 5TH CARGO INDUSTRY AWARDS

JOLLIBEE, MCCANN ERICKSON BAG AWARD

Consistent with its thrust of promoting Catholic Mass Media Awards. Photo

BAX Globat Inc. Philippines, a leading supplier of Supply Chain Solutions won the Best in Logistics and Warehousing Facil ties, Diamond Category at the 5th Cargo industry Awards sponsored by the Global Cargo Carriers Inc. (GCCI) Held at the Grand Sallroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza last Nov. 25, the 5th Cargo Industry

Awards high ighted the best of the best forwarders and logistics providers in the Philippines, Recelving the award is Albert Timo,

positive Filipino values, volkbes Foods

Corporation's Joilibee Kids' Club cam-

paign which was interpreted by leading

advertising company McCann Erickson

through three television commercials

(Celiphone/Bully/Graffiti), was recently

named Best Branded TVC in the recent

Property Glant Federal Land Inc was rit-

cently awarded as the No. 1 High-end

Condomicium Developer by the 2005

National Shoppers Choice Awards.

Their portfolio boasts of numerous

well-respected projects including the

highly-praised GY Tower and the ac-



general manager-air division of BAX Global. Present are Madel Martin, president of Aerotel and John David, Carpo Manager of EVA Air

shows (from left): McCann Erickson

Micky Domingo, Julibee VP for mar-

keting Inez Reyes and McCann Erick-

with the Jolibes mascol during the

claimed Metropolitan Park a 40-

hectare 'City in a Park' development that

houses the exquisite Bay Garden con-

dominum. Photo shows Federal land,

inc FVP for marketing, Ramon Aldaba

receiving the plaque during the National

Shoopers' Choice awarding ceremony.

award-giving ceremonies.

son president and CEO Patricia Arches

VP and executive creative director

PSGP meet THE PARKINSON'S Support Group of the

Philippines Foundation (PS-GP) will meet on Jan. 8, (Sunday) for another lecture on the latest research studies involving Partinson's disease, dystonia and essential fremor. An open forum will tollow the fecture. The meeting will be held at the auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Building (South Tower), 14th floor, St. Luke's Medical Center, 279 E. Rodriguez Sr Avenue, Ouezon City, Registration starts at 12 p.m. and free lunch and refreshments will be served courtesy of Boehringer Ingelheim, manufacturer of the Parkinson's medication Sifrol (pramipexole). Doctor Virgilio Gerald H. Evidente. medical adviser of the PSGP said that, sometime will be devoted to care-giving issues related to Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, and PSGP activities for 2006. Please contact Rosabel Crusio at (0915)443-6647 or the Movement Oisorder Center at St. Luke's, let no. (02)727-5552.

Suburbia Bar's opening

NYOY VOLANTE WITH HIS NEW GROUP TOP BILLS January performers at Suburbia Bar on the 11th and the 25th Truefaith performs on Jan. 27 Freestyle is stated on Jan. 21 back to back with all-male group Wiseguys. Other exciting entertainment line-up for this month include: all Mondays w/ new group Fraeway, Tuesday attractions include 2nd runner up on ABS-CBN's Born Diva talent search Shayne with Brown Sugar Factory on Jan. 17 and 31 alternating with all-male hip hop group H20 on Jan. 10 and Jan. vocals of Freeverse, All Thursdays with Silk and upcoming artist Ron Antonio on Jan. 12 and 26; all Fri-7 and Wiseguys, 14 and 28 with another all-male bend 604. Suburbia is located at 1718 M. Addiatico

LA GEAR, THE FASHIONABLE APPAREL FOR TOday's funky young females is raffling off 25 of the season's coolest, must-have gadget the MPiO FY600 MP3 player. Stock up on the latest fun and fashionable I.A Gear finds at any LA Gear or Bratpack store to increase your chances of winning the hip MPIO FY600, a styfish neckband earphone-type MP3 player that's perfect for cool campus characters. Every single-receipt purchase of any LA Gear Rem(s) worth P 2,000 entitles you to one rattle coupon. You

JAN. 7 AND 8. MARKS THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY reunion of St. Bridget's College HS Class '61 (girls' and boys' departments) of Batangas City. The highlight of this two-day affair will be the blessing of the landscaped garden fronting the St. Euphrasia Building in the campus which is a donation of the class. and a donation of one house, in cooperation with Gawad Kalinga, for a poor and homeless family in Batangas City. Alumni who are now based in different parts of the world have confirmed finer attendance. Those who have not confirmed yet may get in touch with the following: Sr. Lydia Ebora, RGS (063-0917-881-7117), Victoria Tingchuy-Vicente (063-0927-

this New Year. PeopleSupport opens its doors to inherested applicants with the New Year Job Machess (A Resume Party) on Friday, Jan. 6, from 6 p.m. until 12 midnight at the PeopleSupport Center, Ayala corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City. Appilcants will not only be processed on-the-spot, they will also be treated to food and refreshment and entertained by the live acoustic performances of Jimmy Bondoc and the 3rd Avenue band. Bring your resume for free admission. PeopleSupport has job openings for effeps (contact center representatives), collection associates, transcriptionists, part-lime employees and corporate executive positions. For Inquiries on the Job Madness and career opportuni-

CHRISTMAS LAMMING WITH SONY

Sony Philippines sent the Glonetta Activity Center jumping with holiday cheers, as Sony BMG's leading hit makers performed today's hottest chart-toppers. Harried shoppers were transformed into revved-up grouples as Cueshé, 6 Cycle Mind, and Brownman Revival treated the audience with rock of roiling live performances. Lucky fans were also award

ed with a chance of a lifetime; to meet-and-greet their favorite bands. Until Jan. 15, get amazing deals when you buy your Sony products in authorized Sony autiets nationwide. For more details on the on-going promos and special offers being



Customer Contact Center at 878-7600 or go to your nearest Sony Square at Gateway Mai. . Megamali, or Park Square 1

24. Talong center stage all Wednesdays is TJ Ontiz on days w/ Livewire and R& B group Twisted Pair except Jan. 27 Saturdays are a mix with 9th Avenue on Jan. St. Malate or call 524-6263 or 811-0725 for inquiries.

LA Gear's MPIO MP3 raffle

have until Jan. 15, so head over to LA Gear.

SBC HS '61 45th year

221-2460) or Gilbert Rosales (0917-528-2113).

New Year Job Madness

JOIN THE MOST HAPPENING RESUME PARTY tion, call 755-2600 or visit www.peoplesupport.com.

A heavenly vacation at Seraph Hotel Boracay

IF YOU'VE BEEN TO SERAPH HOTEL, ONE OF the de luxe hotels in Boraczy, there is definitely one thing that you would immediately notice, that is, how the staff greet their guests. Because beside the usual smile on the staff's faces when you meet them, you would definitely observe their incessant bowing whenever and wherever you chanced upon them.

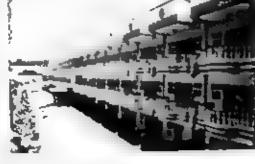
And these people wouldn't cure how many times they have bowed to you, say, in a day. They would certainly do so as the opportunity arises.

Bowing, like in the Korean culture, is deeply imbedded in Seraph Hotel's system. It is not only a form of admowledgement but also of respect to the presence of the resort hotel's valued guests.

Feeling appreciated and treasured, this is maybe the reason why Seraph Hotel continues to lure guests in this paradise resort all-year round. Catering to Korean as well as other foreign and local tourists, Seraph Hotel also provides its guests with only first-class amenines, from room furnishings to the food being served to the ser vice of its friendly staff.

Now with 204 rooms, Seraph Hotel is now the biggest resort hotel in Boracay. Its amenities indude three swimming pools, a gym, a game room, and a main dining restaurant which also serves as a convention area

its new building, which was recently mangurated, boasts of rooms with pool access. This is ideal for honeymooners, which incidentally forms the largest slice of Seraph Hotel's market,



as they can go to the pool directly through their room's rear door Located in the second and the third floors are the castle suites, so named because the building resembles that of a castle.

Its first two buildings house the presidential and sume rooms which contain furnishings all sourced from Italy. The new building's furnishings came from China-from the big bed down to

Seraph Hotel started its operations in Boracay in 2002 with only 60 rooms in what is now called es Emerald Building. Increasing demand even in only during the first few months of its operations necessitated the building of another 60 rooms. The new wing, with more than 80 rooms, is built to meet the continued outpouring of its guests ali-year round. For inquiries, you may visit its Manila office at Casa Catalina Bidg., No. 635 Gen. Malvar St., Malate, Manila, tel. nos. 524-4825 or 524-4142. You may also log on to www.boracayseraph.com

roduct FILES

The Asus A6R: Powerful processing capability

POWERED BY AN INTEL CELERON M PROCESsor that clocks a 1.6 Ghz speed, the Asus A6R Series is designed to provide users powerful processing capability. A 256 MB DDR, 40 GB HDD. combo drive, 15" TFT and a wireless LAN 802 11 b/g complete this baby. The 15" widescreen adopted Asus advance Color Shine glara-type LCD technology presents clear and sharp images. Combined with discrete graphics for 3D video enhancement, the Asus A6R notebook series are the mobile gateway to the virtual world. The Asus A6R offers the fastest DirectX 9.0 integrated graphics platform for Intel-based PCI Express notebooks, offering high-performance graphics for digital multimedia applications and 3D games. Power4 Gear+ is a unique technology available exclusively from Asus only. It offers eight operation modes. designed specifically for various applications. Power is distributed according to the operation modes to ensure that no power goes to waste. The



Asus ASR Series delivers the long lasting battery performance needed for the most intense games. You can get the special ASR notebook with netgear bundle at P49,900 12 months 0 percent installment For inquiries, e-mail bot_sales@bartbros.ph. or visit the website www.asus.com. You may also visit the Asus World Showroom located at Cyberzone, Megamail Building A.

THE NO. I HIGH-END CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPER

THE OFW FAMILY CLUB'S 4TH GRAND REUNION

The OFW Family Club added another year of meaningful existence as it celebrated its 4th Grand Reunion last Dec. 11, at the Philippina Trade and Training Center Founded by Former Ambassador (to JAE) and National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) Chair lawyer Roy 'Amba Señeres, the establishment of the OPW Family Club is in furtherance of the Seferes.

Family tradition of seitlessly providing assistance to OPMs and their families. In the Philippines. The day-long activity was packed with OFW-friendly services. The OFW Family Club - a nonstock, non-profit organization holds regular office at Unit 101 Taft Office Center 1986 Taft Avenue cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City, with tel. nos. (632) 525-1625 or 525-1722.

REGGIE Aspiras on shellfish /C3



Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS @ TUESDAY FITNESS @ WEDNESDAY 2BU @ THURSDAY FOOD @ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

As Italia as the tenor

Café

Caruso is a

good way

taste of the

to get a

country

By Alex Y. Vergara

F YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO Italy, then perhaps one of the best ways to make a virtual trip to the Mediterranean country known for its sun, sea and good food is to dine at Café Caruso.

The restaurant on Reposo Street in Makati (tel. 8952451) serves authentic Italian food, trattoria-style, including signature dishes of such cities as Rome, Muan, Naples and Turin.

The Bucatini Amatriciana, for instance, is a European Roman specialty. The pasta dish is served with a tomato-based sauce garmshed with ground beef and bits of bacon. For the meat lover, there's the Bistella alla Piorentina or porterhouse steak cooked the way they

do it in Florence As its name imphes, the Osso-Buco alla Milanese originated in Milan. It consists of a jutcy shank of veal sitting on a bed of Italian rice and saffron. Café Caruso (which, of course, derived its name from famous Italian tenor Jose Caruso) also pays tribute to the cities of Turin and Naples via such specialties as Cotechino with Polentia, Spinach and Mushroom and Pizza Napolitana.

Apart from these featured dishes, Ĉafé Caruso serves a wide array of antipasti, pizza, pasta, risotto meat, poultry and seafood dish- PASTA sampler: Ravioli Burro es. Italian chef Gino Amodio, who Salvia, Maccheroni Arrabbiata flies to Manila from italy every and Gnocchi Gorgonzola few months to train the restau-

rant's Pilipino staff, is responsible for ensuring the dishes' authenticity.

In keeping with their desire to serve authentic Italian dishes, the owners of Café Caruso import most of the restaurant's ingredients, such as parmesan cheese, extra virgin olive oil, cold cuts and various spices, from Italy. Presh fish, beef and poultry are sourced locally. Commercial pasta is a no-no for the restaurant; pasta ismade by hand daily in its own kitchen.

Hand-tossed pizza is baked using an oldfashioned oven. A "dough man" occasionally works behind the counter tossing the round, rubbery dough to the delight of curious diners

Owners Dario Gardini and Franco Martellotti are true Italians. After spending their vacation in Boracay and Palawan on separate occasions a little over a decade ago, the two fell in love with the Philippines and decided to stay here for good. They're both married to Filipino wom-

"There aren't that many real Italian restaurants in Mania," says Gardini. "Offhand, I can think of only five. The rest are mostly Italian restaurants based on an American concept."

Gardini abandoned his onginal idea of building a restaurant in Boracay after realizing that most of his would-be customers are still based in Metro Manila.

The number of Italian nationals (excluding the religious) in the metropolis can barely breach 200, so Café Caruso finds uself catering to a growing Filipino clientele. Half of its customers are Filipinos, while the other half is composed of foreigners, including Japanese, Americans, French and, of course, Italians.

Before Café Caruso became a full fledged restaurant almost two years ago, it was known



OLD-FASHIONED, hand-tossed pizza

RAYIOLONE Nero with Seafood and Prawns



ITALIAN owners Franco Martellotti and Darlo Gardini

to its patrons simply as Caruso Pizzena. As demand for other dishes increased, the partners decided to expand their menu and refurbish the

The result is a casual during experience that's cozy and elegant enough for those in the mood for fine dining. The restaurant and bar, which has an ample indoor smoking area, can accommodate between 80-100 people.

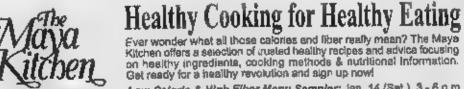
"Café Caruso is open to parties and private functions," says Gardini. "We offer clients special dishes and set menus depending on their request." Since the partners bill Café Caruso as a clas-

sic but modern-day trattoria (family-owned restaurant), they try to make the dining experience as personal as possible. Thus, both of them are quite hands-on. If one partner isn't around, the other makes it a point to be present

"We treat guests like family," says Martellotti. "We talk to them and find out what their needs are. Regulars welcome our suggestions, while first-time customers are often surprised to find out that we go out of our way to personally attend to them."

Like in the Philippines, family comes first in

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.



CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Low Catoria & High Filter Menu Sampler: Jan. 14 (Set.) 3 - 6 p.m.
Cabbage & Been soup, Chicken & Basil Lasagna, Rosat beef Oriental
Salad, Banana Pyramid with vanilla custard sauca includes handy
cooking tips on tow caloria cooking; how to increase the amount of
liber on your diet, how to calculate caloria requirements. With free Mix
& Malch 5 cookbook, Maya's latest publication. P1,000.

Japanese Cury, Tonkatsu, Katsudon, Tempura, Japanese spagneti
and hamburger by Japanese leacher P1,000 with free Japanese cookbook.

Japanese Cury, Tonkatsu, Katsudon, Tempura, Japanese spagneti
and hamburger by Japanese leacher P1,000 with free Japanese cookbook.

Assorted Sushi & Sashimi and Sukiyaki by Japanese teacher P1,000 with free Japanese cookbook.

Calering: Jan. 27 & 28 (Fri. & Sat.) 9 a.m. 3 p.m. Legal & technical aspect to get started in catering
business, facilities, personnel, manu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation
of Stuffed Chicken Thighs, Vegetable Samosa, Spicy Chicken Wings, Eggplant Skordalla, Quiche
Loraine P3,000 with free Catering cookbook.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrolment, Pre-registration required)

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Limited enrolment, Pre-registration required) Basic Culinary: Jan 10 - 13 or Jan 24 - 27(T-F) 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Proper hygiane, sanilation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking, proper mis-en-piace of mirepolix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat labrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, saled aggs, pasts, seafoods, poultry and meats, dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook P6 000.

Fundamentals of Bakery Production: Jan. 17-20 of Jan. 31-Feb. 3 (T-F) 9 e.m. - 1 p.m. Standard baking techniques applicable to baking application on the use of reedy mixes, yeast bread, quick breads, pies, cookies and cakes. P4,000 with free cookbook.

For Inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnalz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph





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The sweetness

of Dumaguete

(Editor's note: This essay is a finalist in

the 2005 Dorcen Gamboa Fernandes food

IN A SEA OF DUST-COLORED BUILDINGS,

the school-owned canteen of the Negros

Oriental High School (NOHS) in Du-

magnete City stands out as a gleaming

white beacon to the school's 4,000 students.

Above as entrance is a wrate sign with a

punk border. It rends "Speak English."

writing awards.)

By Didith Tan Rodrigo

LIFESTYLE

Variations on the 'lechon'

N THE GOLDEN WEDDING anniversary of my parents inlaw, my eidest son said the pig population had gone down. He made the observation as he heard pigs wailing for three days before the event

And, on the day itself, he saw how many roasted pigs were being brought into the backyard where the festivities were to be held. He was also fascinated ready with any or a combination of salt, by the story of how one lechon was waylaid somewhere between the roasting pit and the house and it was never found out who the perpetrators were

My brother-in-law brought specialists from his hometown of Batangas City to roast pig in our backyard during the pamanhikan or when he asked my parents for my sister's hand in marriage. It was such a treat for her urbanized sisters and brother to watch the process that took the better part of the day.

One-man job

My father-in-law took less time to staughter, clean and roast the lection as by himself. He took a suckling pig from the pen mid-afternoon and the tasty lechon was ready for the early dinner

That was when I learned that, in the Visayas, there was no lection sauce, Liver, my husband said, was too precious to just cut up, pound and make into sauce Besides, he added, lethon in that part of the country was seasoned at-



Micky Fenix



pepper, lemon grass, omors, tamarind leaves and spring onions.

And if you're curious about how paksne na techon is done there, it had all of the required mixture save for the inversauce. Since tasting that version, I have preferred that less sweet pakerw

If Manila has its lection row in La Loma, Cebu has Talisay on Sundays, Vendors will cut portions by how much you want to pay rather than by the Kijo. You can have Cebu techon delivered in Manila. Just collect the package at the airport.

If you're in Cebu, you can watch the pig you've chosen go through the process up to the packing at the shop

'Lechon manok'

It was in Cebu where we were presented a chicken cooked inside a lechon Can you imagine how flavorful that chicken was with all the oil steaming it inside a veritable porcine oven? I suppose it's one of the ways cooks found to

Cooks have come up with different ways to jazz up the special-occasion dish, including stuffing it with paella

spit-roasted pig

Cooks have come up with other variations, including the paella-stuffed lechon. Though normally associated with Lydia's, it was Glenda Barretto of Via Mare who originated this. Barretto thought up the presentation for her very first dinner for the international gourmet group, the Chaine des Rotisseurs. She recalled that it took many lechon before they were able to make a perfect crosswise slice where the paeda stuffing head together. And the lechon trader that helped her in the expenment was Lydia's

oven. She serves her lechon version with a grilled liver with red wine sauce

And then there is pritchen It's not, strictly speaking, lechon but deep-fried (prito) whole sucking pig served with pancakes and different sauces. This has inspired artist and part-time chef Claude Tayag to make his own five ways with techon.

We tasted Tayag's variation years ago and were goad to be reminded of it recently. It was at the Lubao, Pampanga, home of Reimon Guttierez whose invitation and to include friends to help finish the big lechon

We heard from their friend, historian Ambeth Ocampo, that he had eaten ischon of an arugula-fed pig from the farm of Guttierez. Laughing when reminded of that, Guttierez said it was at a time when he had a surplus of arugula from his bio-dynamic farm.

When the big lechon arrived, guests started eating the crisp skin, the first undressing, so to speak. Unfortunately, Tayag was delayed (traffic in the province is as bad as in Metro Manila) The next to be stripped was the flesh You can tell if the lection is cooked properly if pieces come out in thin long por

When Tayag arrived, the first thing he did was lay out the sauces that looked nke an artist's painting colors-brown, green, white. Turned out to be liver sauce, Orienta, sauce and garbo-yogurt

Had he arrived on time, we would have had the crunchy skin as the first of the five ways, papakin, something to munch on, according to Tayag. After that, the liempo (belly) was deep-fried and put inside pita bread with your

The legs and head were chopped and cooked as sinigang in bayabas, which Tayag christened the "baya-basse" The pata was cubed and then cooked as asadong matua (old-fashsoned braising) The leftover ribs had enough meat for charcoa,-broiling (inthow), perhaps the most surprising resurrection and the best one yet

The inihaw version beat my favorite. deep-fried lechon dipped in toyo with calamans. But, of course, we must still have the usual vinegar-stewed lechon paksiw The best name for that dish, "The Morning After," was given by Monta Roces in her old menu at her former restaurant, The Only Place, on Donada Street, Manila



E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

US rejects dumped on other markets

ID YOU BUY A BUNK BED with metal tubes or an espresso and cappuccino maker with steam tubes?

Make sure they are not among those recalled from the United States market The bunk beds were recalled reportedly because they were found to be prone to collapse. The more than 20,000 espresso and cappuccino makers were liable. Reports explained to burst under pressure

They are just two of countless products being recalled in the US for health or safety reasons. But, instead of being fixed or destroyed, the substandard products find their way to markets outside the US

The Consumer Reports recently reported on how unsafe goods recalled by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission were shipped out to other markets. Some imported goods, for example, were supposed to be returned by distributors to foreign manufacturers Not all defective products made it back to their piaces of origin

The publication said, "You may have thought that dangerous household products that are stopped at US ports or discovered on store shelves are either repaired or destroyed, But millions of bazardous products, including toys, cribs, electrical goods and flammable clothing, have been gathered up and sent abroad "

Laws differ among countries and what may be banned in the US may be legal somewhere else, the Consumer

CONSUMER Mariella Velasco Giron

But all is not lost. The report said product safety officials in the US and in other countries were trying to develop global safety and performance standards for many products, including secondhand and recalled goods

However, global standards would mean little if these were not enforced, the report pointed out

What you can do

The following buying tips are from Consumer Reports, an Amercian consumer magazine:

 Avoid no-name products because there is no way to track down any manufacturer in case of problems.

 Be cautious of products with label that conflicts with information somewhere in the packaging, or is written in

ungrammatical English Be wary of extraordinary bargains. items that are far too cheap than comparable products sold eisewhere may be cheap because these are counterfeit or otherwise defective

 Beware of products soid by street merchants, flea market vendors and

other "informal" retailers. It can be hard to collect from fly-by-night vendors. (Local newspapers reported that fire was caused by a cell-phone charger that overheated and exploded. The owner of the house where the fire originated said he bought the charger for only P50 from a sidewalk vendor.)

Test product if it works before pay-

Consumers who have access to the Internet can find more information about items recalled by the US product safety commission by periodically checking www.recaus.gov

Commendable

Carol Tongco is all praises for SM Megamall sales tadies and security officer "In the middle of the Christinas shopping rush at SM, something close to a miracle happened to me there. I recovered my lost clutch bag. An empioyee at the infants wear department found the bag and handed it to the security desk. It contained a three-month old 6630 Nokia, Dell Paimtop, all my

credit cards and some cash "The security officer who attended to me was courteous, respectful and reassuring. I thank smesperson Corazon Rivers and her co-workers, among them Renasyn, as well as security officer Saldua. They remind us that there are still good people in our midst in spite of the crime and scams we hear about."

From Elias D. Micsei III "I appreciate yahoo.com

the way the staff at the old domestic airport handles the taxi queue this holiday season. I arrived from Bacolod last investigators suspected that a recent. Thesday night in a heavy downpour and was worried I couldn't get a taxi considering the big crowd of arriving passengers, instead, I found a well-organized taxi waiting area with passengers and cabs in orderly queues. I am happy to note that discipline can stu, be a truit among Filipinos."

(The system has actually been in place for some time now that's why it works so well even during the holiday rush. We have already received letters commending the setup.)

Feedback

From Jen CC Tan (jenectan@ gmail.com: "Thank you for writing about our cloth diapers (Dec. 22 column) We have had a number of inquiries, many from grandparents... there were fathers, too. How nice to see fathers involved [in caring for] their children!

On "shrinking pandesal" (Dec 29 coiumn), M. Galang and J. Maxwell wrote. "Hindi ba dapat tataas lang ang presyo pero hindi magbabago ang size at quality ng produkto. Kung sinasabi nila na tumaas ang flour, yeast, sugar etc., then, of course, they have all the reason to sack up their prices pero 'di naman dapat na luran at thahin ang timpla to the dismay of the buying public."

E-mail the author at mygiron07@

The white-and-pink faux marble tile floor is glossy and polished despite constant foot traffic. The canteen's front, left and rear are open to provide ventilation but delimited with white bars. Girls and boys hunch over white tables and chairs The right walled side of the room is occupied by a showcase of rice, hot meals, desserts, candies and biscuits. Baskets of V-Cut, Piatos, and other chips hang from the white lintels. To the back of the room, the kitchen is abuzz with staff cutting, mixing, boiling, steaming or frying the next meal or snack.

The canteen is managed by Wilfreds Villalon It has three principal cooks. A wizened Mang Tonio is responsible for the hot meals. Youthful Jo-an does the baking. Sixty-year-old Auntie Flora Oira is the canteen's equivalent of a pastry

From Mondays to Fridays, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Auntie Flora is dressed in an apron and a hairnet as she prepares the day's sweets, puta maya (a sweet rice cake eaten with hot chocolate), champorado (chocolate rice pudding), dinuidog (sweet coconut milk pudding, genataan in Tagalog), among others.

No bigger than a forefinger

One of her culmary treats is budbud kebog, a sweet cake the size of an adult's forefinger. There are different kinds of budbud. Some are made, for example, of malagkit (glutinous rice) But what distinguishes this budbud is the use of millet, kabog Hence, it is generally only available in Dumaguete, Bayawan, and other localities where millet is grown

Auntie Flora does not speak Tagalog or English. With the help of her colleague, Isabel Romano, Auntie Flora explains that she only seamed how to cook three years ago, when she joined the NOHS canteen. She cooked at home, but her dishes were limited to "mga ordinaryo lang (the ordinary ones) " Working in the canteen required her to expand her repertoire. Mang Tonio and Villaion mentored her on new dishes and food

To make budbud kabog, Auntre Flora soaks the kabog one hour prior to cooking. She squeezes the milk from five coconuts and combines it with sugar. She boils the solution until it is thick and adds the kabog, cooking until it is tender. She then forms the budbud kabog by wrapping cooked kabog in young banana leaves and steaming them for one hour.

Smell of banana

Whether freshly steamed or reheated (in freezes beautifully), budbud kabog smells of sweet banana leaves and rich eoconut milk. It is soft without being mushy and firm enough to hold its shape The individual miliet grains meld into a un fied whole Budbud kabog is sweet but not satiating. The coconur oil gives at a buttery texture that allows it to sixle aimost unperceptively down your throat. You can easily guip down five or six pieces and still want for more. Villalon recommends eating budbud kabog with thick, native chocorate and ripe mangoes. The combination is divine

Auntie Flora says that, for budbad kabog to be good, "Kanangan eksakto ang timple (the combination of ingredients must be precise)." Is there bad budbud kabog out there? Yes, there is, Vihalon says, "Yung kulang sa gata (Those that do not have enough coconut milk) " Some budbud kabog-makers, she says, are too commercia. The NOHS canteen, on the other hand, emphasizes service and not profit, so their food's prices are low while quality is high.

The emphasis on service also leads to a full disclosure attitude towards recipes Both Auntie Flora and Villaion are surprisingly forthcoming with their formulations, "There are no trade secrets," Vislaion says. A teacher of Technology and Livelihood Education, she says, "These are the same recipes I give to my students." Although she has not taught them budbud kabog this year, she is thinking of including it in her November syllabus, when she teaches native delicacies The canteen caters primarily to

NOHS students. However, it accepts orders for budbud kabog and other products. The staff routinely entertains requests from teachers, the Department of Education Division of Dumaguete City, government workers from City Hall, friends, and visitors. To order budbud kahog from the NOHS canteen, please call Villalon through the principal's office at (035) 2252684 or (035) 4220326. Viitalon also recommends their empanadar, but that is another

The secret to easy barbecuing

BARBECUE-LOVING Pinoys no longer have to worry about preparing the marinade for their favorite d.sh.

Mama Sita's Balbecue Marinade produces barbeques that are golden in color with the perfect balance of sweetness, tang and piquancy. No artificial substitutes are used to protect the natural zest and flavors of the ingredi-

The marinade is Mama Sita's own special concection, known on y to her and her closest relarives. It is made from naturany



grown herbs and spices from community farms in the Phiappines' mountainous regions

With Mama Sita's Barbecue Marinade, preparing the perfect barbecue has never been easier and less time-consuming. Just marinate chicken, pork, fish or seafood with Mama Sita's Barbeque Marinade for at least 15 minutes, turning occasionally to dis-

tribute the mix evenly. Then skewer the cutlets and start grilling. Mama Sita's Barbecue Marinade can make anyone a barbecue pro with very little



Many

shellfish

varieties

are not

available

in Manila

and only

Visayan

names

have

A clam-or for names

HAPPY NEW YEAR! WE begin 2006 by answering KITCHEN questions.

I read the English-Filipino names of fishes. I was wondering if you can help me with names for shellfish. It will help me buy these kinds of food in the market if ever I go out of the Philippines.

Here are the most common ones. Thanks to Mida Food Corp, for he.ping me out.

Mollusks

Green mussel-tahong mussel—abahang Brown (Visayan)

Clams-generic name halaan But since there are more varieties of clams in Iloilo/Visayas not avallable in Manila, we put the varieties here

Giant clam-tipay

clam-kagaykay Hen (Visayan), katakaw (Tagalog) Jackrufe clam-bilang (Visayan), tikhan (Aklanon)

Mangrove mud clam-imbao (Longgo) Mud clam-tuway (Visayan),

paros (Tagalog) clam-bugaton Sand (Visayan), saropsaropan (Taga

Venus or surf clam-balinday (Longgo)

Wedge or bean clam-agihis

(Visayan) Nylon shell or yellow clam-akegar-asart (Visayan), badoy (Bicolano)

Bay scallops-tikab Oyster-taiaba (Tagalog), sisi

(Visayan) Cockles—litob (Visayan) (Ak Conch baka-baka

lanon); a common protein source, it is cooked with vegetables and coconat malk. Abalone sobra-sobra

(Visayan) Kidney or fan-shell scal-

lops—tarab Asian moon or sun moon scallop--abaniko (Visayan), lampirong (llonggo)

Window-pane shell-kapis (Tagalog), capiz (Ilonggo), pi-us (Aklanon), its meat is popular as a viand and appenzer. Shell is used extensively for shell craft. There isn't one recipe for this. Evand is the basis for an extensive cottage industry.

cone-apugan Leopard (Visayan), the meat is tasty. Brod. and serve as appetizer.

Snail—kuhol Angel wing clam-diwal

RESCUE Reggie

Aspiras

cold winters.

and freshly ground, maximum

shelf life for ground spices is six

Singh of the Princely House of

Sailana. Adjust the quantity of

each ingredient until you find a

blend that is most pleasant to

you. For ingredients, call Assad at

cumin seeds, cumin seeds, cloves,

bay leaves, black cardamom

seeds, cardamom, cinnamon,

3 g each of mace, dry ginger

Grind spices until fine, pass

Pointers: Use whole spaces,

Evan, here are two simple

toast on a dry pan over heat be-

recipes. Though masala isn't used

in its authentic context, it still

adds a delicious twist to other-

3/4 c peeled garlic cloves,

1 fresh chili or chili pow-

wise gloomy everyday dishes.

Masala Shrimps

4 tbsp butter

Salt to taste

der/flakes

2 tsp tomato paste

2 tbsp oil

sliced

fore grinding on a spice mill.

6 g each of the following: black

UN Ave. (5261349).

Saffron, optional

through a sieve.

peppercoms

Here's the recipe of Digvijaya

Cowrie

Meat is served in a tasty seafood soup and the shells are sold in shell shops.

Money (Visayan)

cowrie batatoy Tiger (Visayan)

Sea urchin-tayong (Ilonggo), tuyom (Cebuano) Sea cucumber-balat or bala-

Shrimps

White (wild)--puttan White (in ponds)-suati (suaheng puti)

Tiger prawn-sugpo Fresh water prawn-ulong Southern velvet shrimp (thick-skinned

shrimp)-kuakit Pink shrimp—suahe wild-caught Brown tiger-bultk

Lobster

Spiny lobster-banagan Slipper lobster—püik Mud lobster-kulukoy (Taga-

Crabs

Blue swimming crab-alimasag

Mud crab—alimango Spanner crab/red crab—curacha

Shore crab-talangka (Taga-Land crab--kurny (flongo)

Masala fancier

My favorite is masala. The one I buy is not the same. I tried it in my recipes but it's different. I like the smell and flavor of masala. Can you help me and would you have a simple recipe for it with seafood?

Masala means mixture of spices, anywhere from two to 15. ery home has one tailor-made to suit its needs and preferences. It also varies from region to region. These blends are the secrets to the most treasured recipes of each household.

The most popular of the



SHELLFISH PLATTER as this one served at Bocarinos of the New World Renaissance Hotel, includes oysters, crabs, shrimps, among others.

baking, pour 1 c coconut milk

1/2 k shrimps, peeled and dewith foil at 350 °F until fish is done.

3 thep coriander leaves Heat oil and butter, add garlic, add the rest of the ingredients. Cook until shrimps are done.

Spice Baked Lapu-lapu

Garnish with whole coriander

11/2 tsp Garam Masala

1 1/2 k lapu-lapu whole, cleaned

Lay fish on baking dish. Season with salt, pepper and squeeze lemon juice over it.

2 thep vegetable oil 2 c finely chopped onion

1/4 c vegetable oil 2 tbsp gartic

2 tsp minced ginger 1 fresh Thai chili or green

pangsigang, sliced 1 c chopped fresh tomatoes 14 tsp ground turmeric

2 tsp Garam Masala 1 tsp salt

1 tsp sugar

Heat oil Sauté ingredients, add masala, salt, sugar and cook until tomatoes are tender. Cool. Pour mixture over fish. Before

(first extraction).

Bake for 30 minutes covered

Concept Specialist Inc.

Garnish with coriander sprigs

E-mail the author at raspiras@ingurer.com.ph



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Roasts, sauces and sides

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS School of Culmary Arts will conduct the following classes:

Jan. 9-Roast Chicken Collection-Roast Chicken with Bone Marrow and Mushroom Gravy, "Iberian Chicken" (Gar.ic Chicken), Curry Roast with Mango Chamey and Indian Pital, Roast Butter Chicken in Butter Sauce, Roast Chicken Gaiantina; side d.shes

11-Crowning Glory-Succulent Crown Roasts of Pork, Beef and Lamb done right

(all new). Class includes rubs, sauces, stuffing, relishes, side

Jan. 13-Home-cured Breakfast Corned Beef and Bacon (all new)-Learn the art of curing two of your breakfast favorites. Everyone takes home their own

Jan. 14-Roast Beef Lechon Baka Style-Tender Chunks of beef marmated and roasted to perfection, served with sauces and side dishes

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162.

Freebies fit for 'royalty'

GET A SUPER BOWL ROYAL- of Crispy Lemon Chicken ty Card with a minimum initial purchase of P500 at any Super Bowl of China branch until Jan. 31 Complete all orders listed on the card and get a limited-edition, one ofa kind 2006 Feng Shui Planner for free.

The planner will serve as guide to everyone, regardless of animal sign in the Chinese horoscope, in love, business, career, leasure and life in the Year of the Dog that begins Jan. 29

Super Bowl of China's Royarty Card lets you get more freebies the more you order. Six orders of main dishes get Chow Pried Rice; eight orders of dim sum mean one free order of bottomless iced six orders of roasts (except Blue Wave, Macapagal Avcentury egg) gets a free order en ae

Six orders of Super Bowl's

noodle dishes get a free order of Pork Siomai while a free order of Shanghai Dumplings comes with six orders of Rice Toppings. Eight orders of soup and congee dishes mean one free order of Mango Pudding or Mango Sago.

Super Bowl of China Restaurants are in Glorietta 4; Jupiter Street, Makati, Festival Mall, Alabang; SM City North Edsa; SM Megamall; SM City Fauview; Promenade, Greenhills; SM San Lazaro; Blue Wave, Marikina; Eastwood City Walk, Libis: and at Gateway Mall, you one free order of Yang Araneta Center. Also visit the affiliated Big Buddha Restaurant in Greenbelt 3. Soon to open are branches in Tomas ten, lemonade or softdrink, Morato, Quezon City and

Use your Visa card to win like the Caparras family.



John Carl Caparras won a trip for his family in the Visa Hong Kong Disneyland Getaway.

Have a magical vacation in Hong Kong D sneyland the Visa way -- get a chance to win a round trip for a family of 4 to Hong Kong Disneyland. Plus enjoy breakfast with your favorite Disney characters, and receive 2 FASTPASS tickets per guest (8 for a family of 4) for the reservations in selected rides and shows,

Be mesmerized and dazzied with the 4 magical worlds of Hong Kong Disneyland. Experience what it was like in the turn of the 20th Century in Main Street, USA. Be intrigued at the mysterious lungle of Adventure and. Meet Mickey and all his friends in Fantasyland and blast into outer space at futuristic Tomorrowland! Timeless tales and bold adventures are brought magically to life for children of all ages.

Mechanics:

- 1 Promo Period: 27 November 2005 to 24 January 2006
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Register your Visa transactions at any of the following available channels.

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Smart 325

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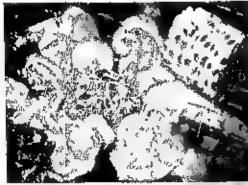
- 2 Call Center Metro Manila 637 2768, Provincial Toli Free #1800-1888-2591
- 3 Website www.hbimasia.com/visa

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Per family of laur See Byers for despits Per DTI-MCF Permit No 9082 Series of 2005.



THURSDAY, **JANUARY 5, 2006**



TEMPURA Japanese Grill's best-selling obl

Table-top grilling of Japanese favorites

TEMPURA Japanese Grill Restaurant offers authentic Japanese food. Ifke the best-selling ebitempura packed with Omega 3. It is the only restaurant with the Yakin ku table equipped with griffing and built-in exhaust to let diners cook their own food. The grill is smokeless and odoriess Tempura Japanese

Gri has branches in Re- 1 3 tire Tomas Morato. Greenhilis Alabano Town Center and UN Avenue Manila. Another 0 10 10 14 14 15 11 11 11

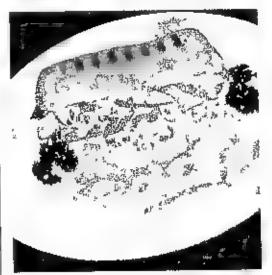
DINING OUT

zargy's Ohig - Apolia Ave. and Jno cor Maketi Ave., Maketi.

METRO Phi Restobar offers Asian and Western cursine like Chicken Teriyaki. Fettuccini Pesto and Grilled ...empo. The restaurant's bestserers .nclude the Mexican Caesar Salad, Coconut Curried Prawns and Green Tea Cheesecake Metro Phi is at the Metrowaik Commercial Complex Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Ca. 6388896

TEAK Bistro serves ou nary specialties prepared by five renowned chefs: Dundee Magallanes, Jane Paredes Eduardo Quimson, Jill Sandique and Heny Sison. The restaurant's appetizers include Seafood Nort Purses, Spring Rolls stuffed with Smoked Fish and Glass Noodles served with separate dips like the sweet chill sauce and a barsamic vinegar reduction. Teak also serves white pizza the bihod or Fish Ros Pasta and Yellow Submarine, a tamb curry and rice dish seasoned with raisins and diced tomatoes. Also available are Green Hornet, a chicken and rice dish seasoned with parsiey; Black Magic, a creamy paetia with squid ink, and Adobo Crepe Desserts inc ude Brownie Cheesecake Over cad, Banana Cream Ple. White Choco Crème Brûlée and Devil's Island Cal 8983365 or e-mail teak_bistro@yahoo.com

FUZION Smoothle Caté has aunched its Tipsy Smoothles, neuding Indigo Conspiracy Agent Orange Sex on the Peach, Very Baney Nice and Pretty in Pink. A new line of specialty coffees include Hong Kong Cafe Latte, Bailey Latte, Mon Cheri Cafe Latte. Double Espresso. Classic Latte. Cappuccino Cafe Mocha and White Coffee Fuzion also serves South Beach grilled specialties such as Herb-Smothered Pork Chop, Southwesterg Spring Pork Chop, Classic Pork Chop and Cajun Smoked Chicken—all served with organic Mexican Brown Rice Fuzion branches are at Tomas Morato, Citywalk in Eastwood, Libis Rodeo Drive in Robinson's Galleria; Podium; Greenhills Promenade, and Greenbeit 3



MOCHA BLENDS has another addition to its menu, the Creamy Crab Sandwich -pon de sal, baked and toasted and filled with crab meat. Dressing is made of cream cheese, yogurt, Mocha Blends also serves breakfast, pastas, Australian fusion pies, pastries and cakes. Call 3762889 to 90 or 3743098.



BUSINESS/BI

Peso hits 3-year high before closing at P52.585 to \$1

WORLD/A8

Architect of glitzy Dubai takes over as ruler after his brother, the emir, dies



SPORTS/AI8 'Bata' Reyes tops world pool money list with \$279,169 ■ ENTERTAINMENT/A2-I Letter from Steven S., holiday notes from TomKat, etc. swamp PDI man in Hollywood

Gov't checks 'rolling store' hoarding, avoids traders



By Gil C. Cabacungan jr.

ARE BARANGAY CHAIRS and councilors more trustworthy than traders in hawking subsidized instant needles and rice in poor communities?



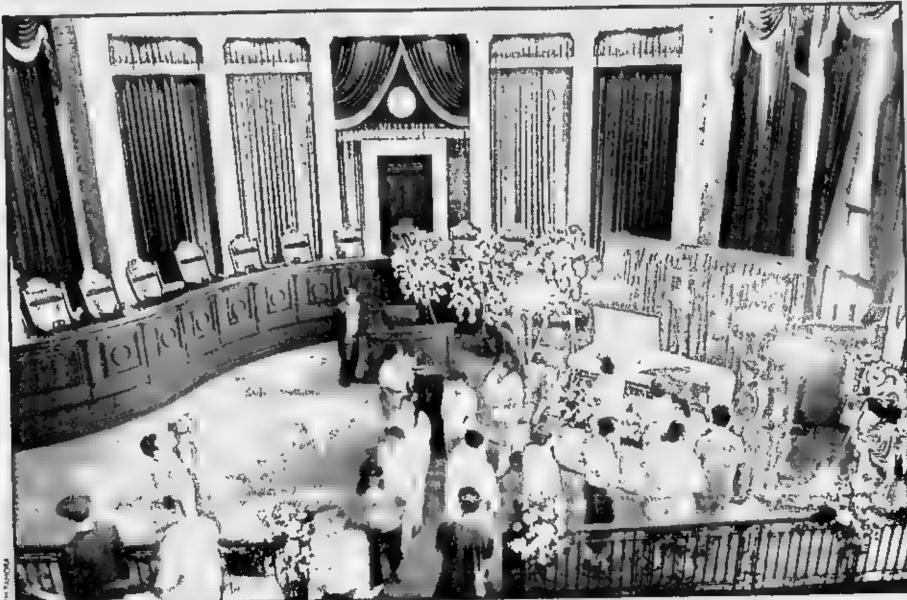
Friday, January 6, 2006

5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 29

SHARON/AT ARIEL SHARON

'FVR only seeks dialogue'

Palace also says Ramos reveals 'unflattering details' in Drilon-Sotto meet



THE LAST VISIT of Cecilia Muñoz-Pairna to the Supreme Court where she was its 1st woman associate justice—a fitting finale to a trailblazing legal career of many firsts—turns into a celebration of "her private character and public virtues." Chief Justice Panganiban led legal luminaries and court employees heap tribute on the lady, once dubbed "the only justice with balls" during the Marcos years. Interment is set for Jan. 10 at the Loyola Memorial in Marildina after the 1 p.m Mass at Mt. Carmel in Quezon City.

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

throwing

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL Ramos is seeking a dialogue with opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo-not an alliance with them-in a bid to heal political divisions, his spokesperson said yesterday.

Malacañang also said that Ramos had expressed "unequivocal support" to Ms Arroyo and that he had dropped demands that she state publicly her opposition to proposals for the scrapping of the 2007 elections.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ramos disclosed to ranking Cabinet officials "unflattering details of his recent meeting with Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto Ili

Bunye said Ramos himself had assured Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio on two separate occasions of his continued backing of the Arroyo administration

'(Ramos') words were very reassuring, very unequivocal as far as his support for this administration," Bunye told reporters.

Ed Malay, Ramos' media adviser, said the meeting with Drilon and Sotto was an initiative by both sides to promote political stability and had nothing to do with a proposed alliance of former Presidents.

Why should FVR (Ramos) make any move to form an alliance with the opposition ... when they themselves are far from forging a united front?" Malay said.

Ramos talked to Ermita after seeing him at the necrological rites for the late Sen. Robert

Church goes on TV with own station

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HIERarchy has launched its own television station called "TV Maria" amid aggressive proselytizing by other Philippine based Christian sects on television

It joins the Igiesia ni Cristo (Net 25 and Gem TV), Ang Dating Daan (block timer on UNTV 37 and RJTV) and Jesus is Lord (QTV 11) in using television to reach out to members and possible converts

The Archdiocese of Manila, backed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Phil ppines (CBCP), quietly launched TV Maria on New Year's Day on Channel 21, said Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general.

Channel 21 is supported by Dream Satelate TV of businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangeo.

channel emanating from Manda, was named so to honor the role of Mary as the one who points the By Marion Ramos way toward Jesus.

The shows in the new channel, now aired 24 hours daily, are all about Catholic doctrine, family enrichment and the youth.

The CBCP has been getting high media mileage mainly on political msnes, particularly the scandar centered on President Macapagal-Arroyo, according to Coronel.

media but this concerns political (about) are the values especially in defense of family and life."

TV Maria was launched at a time when a number of high-ranking Church officials have been complain-



EMOTIONALLY CHARGED FUNERAL of former Sen. Robert Barbers at the Manita Memorial Paric A gun salute from his former police colleagues, the release of 61 doves and butterfiles and a funeral cortege bearing his remains drawn by a white horse for that last, slow, tearful march to the final place. (Story on Page A2.)

Erap welcomes unity with Ramos, Aquino

By Nelson F. Flores, Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

EX PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRAda yesterday welcomed a move to form an alliance of former Chief Executives-himself, Aquino and Fidel Ramosagainst President Macapagal-Arroyo, but an administration ally said the proposal was an "impos-

sible dream In a statement to the Inquirer, Estrada said "suggestions from the majority of our impoverished people for the three former Presidents to join hands to find ways to alleviate the plight of our people is not only a welcome move but a step in the right direction."

"For five years, the Filipino people have suffered and it is high time that we get together for the good of this country," he added

Estrada's reaction followed reports quoting his former agrarian reform secretary, Horacio Morales, as saying that the United Opposinon (UNO) would form an adiance of the three former Presidents to compel Ms Arroyo to step down.

Morales said the proposal was made during a meeting of the UNO, an umbrella group of various opposition parties, in mid-December and could happen if Ramos and Againo paid Estrada a visit at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal

ERAPY A4

Cops free 5 of 11 men ream Satelate IV of Dusinessman intorno "Tonyboy" Cojuangeo. TV Maria, the first Catholic transfel emanating from Marila. The Maria of Catholic Sangeo. The

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

and Luige A. del Puerto ın Manıla

IMUS, CAVITE-FIVE MEN ARRESTED for their supposed involvement in the killing of Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon were released Wednesday night,

police said yesterday. Police also hinted that a ranking po-"We are always visible in the lice officer implicated in the killing was not yet off the hook. But they kept matters," he told reporters yester- reporters guessing on the evidence, if day, "What we are concerned any, against Senior Supt, Manuel

Supt. Rodel Sermonia, Cavite police intelligence chief, said no evidence was found to link the five suspects to the

Dec. 31 ambush-slay.

now charged with murder, were rounded up by police authorities in separate raids on Monday and Tuesday on houses in Green Valley and Queensrow Subdivision in Barangay Molino, Bacoor,

Gingoyon's residence is in the same barangay.

At a press conference in Manila, police did not have much to say about the progress of the case.

But they said the alleged trigger man, Rodolfo Cuer, was also involved in the killing of Japanese national Uchara Tsotomo in Las Piñas City in November

Police likewise kept their lips sealed on the possible motive and mastermind of the daring noontime murder.

The National Bureau of Investiga-

Poor girl finds, returns P300,000 that biker lost

By DJ Yap

THE QUESTION ARISES: WOULD OTHERS

have done the same? Cristina Bugayong, 12, lives in a cramped house with her parents and seven siblings

The sixth-grader goes to a public school with only P10 in her pocket, and helps seil cafeteria food in her free time

Her mother Luzviminda is the breadwinner of the household, but is barely able to make ends meet

When .Cristina picked up "at least P300,000" on Wednesday right, she could

CASH IN HAND: There's a priceless lesson to be from Cristina Bugayong, 12, Grade 6 student at the Tomes.... Morato Elementary School in Quezon City, whose honesty is as rare as a congressman not beholden to the Palace. Her mother Aling Nanz is right proud of her.



The five, together with six others CHURCH/A4 但是这种种,我们也是是一种,但是是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的,也是一种的 第一章 FORECAST: Mindanao will have cloudy sides with rainshowers and

isolated thunderstorms. Eastern and Southern Luzon and Eastern

Visayas will have mostly cloudy sides with rainshowers. The rest of

the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy sixes with isolated rain-

tage is partly Cloudy Teguegaran Partly Cloudy Laces Partly Cloudy Clark Zone Partly Cloudy Partly Cloudy **Partty Cloudy** Partly Cloudy

Cloudy with Rain Parily Cloudy Partily Clinicity Cloudy with Rain Gen. Santet Zporboange Cloudy with Rains Closely with Rains Cagayin Mi Cloudy with Rains

COMPLETE CHILL BONABBILL TO BESEARCH/01/04/04 SOURCE PAGASA 'Let AFP handle Daquil'

By Philip C. Tubeza and Alcuin Papa

CONGRESS SHOULD LEAVE THE INVESTIGATION OF alleged corruption in the Philippine Air Force to the Armed Forces leadership, two administration legislators said yesterday as the top PAF brass supposedly ordered Col. Efren Daquil not to talk to the press any further about the alleged anomalies he exposed three days ago.

Reps. Marcelino Libanan and Benasing Macarambon, vice chairs of the House committees on justice and national defense, respectively, said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga should be given a free hand to investigate charges made by Daquil that P30 million in savings had disappeared and that high PAF officials had been gerring unlawful allowances of up to P45,000 a month

The congressmen said they wanted the AFP to conduct the probe instead of Congress to avoid politicizing the matter. However, they called on the Commission on Audit and the Ombudsman for the military to ensure that the military did not end in a whitewash.

"I believe the Armed Forces is capable and responsible enough to probe the issues raised by Daquil including the P30 million missing PAF fund and the P45,000 monthly allowance supposedly being received by PAF generals and wing commanders," Libarian said.

He said it was possible also that Daquil may have made the allegations to blackmail the AFP leadership to give him a good position after his relief last December as deputy commander of the PAFs 710th Special Operations Wing based at Clark Air Base.

"It's clearly an internal matter that must be handled by the APP." Libarian said

Macarambon cautioned that a congressional inquiry may only politicize

the issues raised by air force colonel, who he said was "sour-graping,"

The alleged gag order on Daquil was disclosed by his lawyer, Homobono Adaza, and a PAF officer who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

While Daquil had been ordered not to give any media interviews, Adaza said in a radio interview he was free to move around Villamor Air Base, including playing golf. The officer said Daquil can leave the base only if accompanied by guards.

Dequil named himself in for investigation by the Air Porce Provost Marshal last Wednesday, He was later "requested" by his superiors not to leave the compound of Villamor Air Base for his "personal security"

Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla said in a radio interview Daguil had not been forbidden to talk to the media but acknowledged that "we are requesting him" to course any further statements "through the process."

"If he will grant our request, that's good, so that we can proceed without hitches the due process that we are doing," Padilla said, referring to on-going reau, and Nikko Dizon

investigation of Daquil.

Interviewed by a television crew that chanced on him in Villamor afterward, Daquil said he wanted to be transferred to the custody of the AFP chief because he was "not comfortable" at Villamor.

Padilla said that the office of the Air Porce Provost Marshai had held a "proceeding" shortly after Daquil reported to Air Force last Wednesday, Daquil was accompanied by Adaza.

Padilla also said the Provost Marshal was "wrapping up its report" and, if warranted by the evidence, Daquil would be court-martialled on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline

Meanwhile, in Zamboanga City, two officers defended the PAP against Daquil's charges.

Col. Reolucio Samaco, deputy chief of the 3rd Tactical Operation Wing, told the Inquirer that Daquil "could be suffering from personal problems and his allegation is unfair." With reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bu-



DAQUIL: What gag order?

Sen. Barbers laid to rest

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Tarra Quismundo

SIXTY-ONE BUTTERFLIES WERE released into the sky as the late Sen. Robert Barbers was laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park in Parafiaque City past noon yesterday.

Barbers' four children - Robert Lyndon, Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace, head of the Philippine Tourism Authority Robert Dean and Mary Grace - said the number of butterflies represented the years their father lived on earth.

Barbers passed away on Dec. 25 of cardiac arrest after a long bout with throat cancer. He-was to turn 62 on January 19.

cried out as she freed the butterflies. moments before her father's grave was sealed and as a 21-gun salute was fired in his honor.

The butterflies complemented the shower of red and white rose petals scattered by a helicopter as the dark brown coffin bearing the late senator's remains was marched family mausoleum at the park's Sanctuary of Peace section.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier offered to have Barbers interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayanı in Fort Bonifacio, Tagilig City. But the family declined, opting to bury him at the the family mausoleum where many departed members of the Barbers clan rest. The late senator was laid to rest beside his wife's father and a grandson.

Some 500 relatives, friends and "Good-bye, Dad," Mary Grace colleagues came to bid Barbers goodbye, among them House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., his wife Gina, Senator Alfredo Lim and several police officials.

Mourners also included seven members of the The Hobbits, a group of midgets who, like Barbers, were devoted to the Sto. Niño.

"We've known him for a decade now, on a horse-drawn caisson to the even when he was still a police officer at the Manila Police District," said the group's leader, Roger Moreyon.

Morejon said Barbers always joined them in the annual parade in Quiapo, Manila, celebrating the feast of the Sto. Niño. "But we will always remember him. When we hold the parade on Jan. 29, we know that he will still be there acting as our guide," he told the INQUIRen yesterday.

In the latter part of the funeral rites, Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lornibao handed over a folded Philippine flag to Barbers' widow, Virginia. In behalf of the President, we give this flag to [symbolize] the services he rendered to the country," he said.

No need for rape victim to show 'probable cause'

By Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Volt Contreras

OLONGAPO CITY-THE JUDGE IN THE Subje rape case has said he does not need to have the rape victim and the four witnesses physically present in court for hun to determine if there was probable cause in charging the four United States Marines and their Filmino driver and ordering their arrest.

"The records (of the case) will suffice," said Renato Dilag, presiding judge of the Olongapo Regional Trial Court Branch 73.

He cited the Section 6, Rule 112 of the Rules of Court and a Supreme Court decision on Santos vs. Reyes which established that a judge is not required to obtain more evidence and demand that the complainant and witnesses be presented when undertaking a judicial determination of probable cause.

The lawyers of Lance Corporal Daniel Smith and driver Timoteo Soriano Jr. had sought in separate motions that Dilag examine the victim and the witnesses because the prosecutors had not personally done so dur-

ing the preilminary investigation Meanwhile, Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, yesterday expressed apprehension that the four US Marines may not be arraigned at all if the US Embassy refuses to

ter arrest warrants have been issued.

Paredes said there are questions and legal "nuances" that needed to be addressed this early by government prosecutors to preempt "possible delaying" tactics in a case that is widely seen to be a test for the VFA and Philippine US relations.

"You cannot have an arraignment and the case cannot proceed until the court acquires jurisdiction over the accused. But what if the embassy won't budge?" said Paredes.

"Is handing over the warrants to the embassy-even if the suspects are not turned over—already tantamount to the court acquiring jurisdiction over the accused?" tie asked

If the US merely receives the arrest warrain but does not yield custody of the accused, the warrants cannot be considered "effectively served," he said.

However, negotiations for transfer of custody could still continue at the diplomatic lev-

Paredes said he was opurnistic that the US Embassy would grant the Philippine request for custody, which the government formally conveyed last Nov. 16 but has remained unanswere

"We have been friends for over a hundred years. How difficult would it be for them to grant this one thing that we are asking?" he said

The VFCOM director said the embassy lias agreed to let him personally see the four accused sordiers for the second time since early November. With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

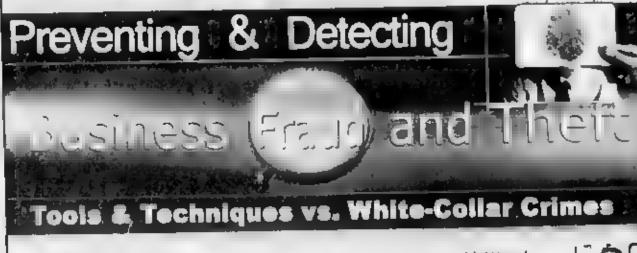
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Juan Carlos B. Robles, Partner, Punongbayan & Araulio. He has over 20 years of work experience and is a Certified Fraud Examiner and Cartified Public Accountant (both in the U.S. and in the Philippines). Juancho attended fraud and investigation trainings at the USDA and Cartified Public Accountant (both in the U.S. and in the Philippines). Juancho attended fraud and investigation trainings at the USDA Graduate School and received various awards and commendations from U.S. government agencies unduding the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBL) for his work against white-collar crimes and public corruption. He is a mamber of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He obtained his master's degree, with distinction, from the Asian Institute of Management

Akty. Elfren L. Meneses, Jr., Chief Anti-Fraud Division, National Bureau of Investigation. He has 30 years of solid experience at the bureau which includes fighting real estate fraud, computer crimes, skegal recruitement, urben and other white-collar crimes.

Capt. Conrado G. Dumiteo, President, Truth Verifier System. Captain Dumiteo has been in the investigative and security business for 40 years, 17 of which were in the U.S. His company was awarded by the Philippine National Police as the Best Private Detective Agency in the Philippines. He is a Certified International Investigator, Certified Protection Professional, Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified

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hand them over to Philippine authorities even af-SC ruling to stall Naia3 opening, Solgen fears

THE SUPREME COURT RULING ORDERING THE GOVERNment to pay P3 billion in initial compensation to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) for the expropriated Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will only delay the facility's scheduled opening later this year, according to Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

In a motion for partial consideration of the SC's Dec. 19 ruang, Benipayo argued against releasing the money to Piatco until all claims of creditors against the consortium

have been determined. He warned that the government could end up assuming Pi atco's liabilities, noting that Piatco was an insolvent company and because of this might refuse to pay its creditors.

The republic faces the legal possibility of naving to defend uself against the assumption of liability to creditors of Piatco whose combined claims against the latter far exceed the value of the property expropriated," Bempayo argued.

Some of these creditors were the Japanese builder, Takenaka, and Asahikosan, its subsidiary, which need to complete the construction so the terminal can be opened.

Benipayo noted that Piatco had earlier expressed a desire not to pay Takenaka and its subsidiary.

If the P3 billion is released to Piatco, the terminal would not be completed and the country could end up with another "white elephant," he said

Benipayo said the government must have some form of security because of Piatco's financial state. Leila B. Salaverria

Gov't vows swift justice for press slays

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SAID YESTERDAY IT wants a "swift resolution" of journalists' murders, after a global press watchdog said the country was the world's deadliest place for journalists next to Iraq in 2005

The Paris-based Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) report said 63 journalists were kided worldwide in 2005 and 1,300 physically attacked or threatened, making it the deadliest year in a decade

Of the total deaths, seven were from the Philippines, second only to Iraq, where 24 Journalists and five media assistants were slain last year.

Lanao clan war kills 10

By Alcuin Papa

A WAR BETWEEN TWO CLANS in Lanao del Sur claimed the lives of 10 persons yesterday. reaching reports Agumaldo said

Skirmishes in Tubaran and nearby viliages were still raging as of press time between members of the Kibad and Balt families and their allies on one side and the Papandayan and the Dimaporo clans on the oth-

The Kibad and Balt families have been under attack from about 200 heavily armed supporters of the Papandayan and Dimaporo clans since Wednes

Reports said that of the 10 k.lled, seven were fighters from the Papandayan-Dimaporo clan downed in an ambush yester-

Residents in Tubaran fear the feud could lead to a full-blown conflict between government forces and the fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the

Around 200 heavily armed MILF fighters were seen murching toward Tubaran, apparently to protect civilians.

The clan war began January 29 last year when 12 members of the Kibad-Balt families were massacred by Marine soldiers after being tagged by the Papandayan-Dimaporos as alleged bandits.

The Kibads and the Balt retabated and kided 12 and wounded seven family mempers of the Dimaporos and Pa pandayans in February that same year

Moro rebs support Asean tourism meet in Davao

DAVAO CITY - MUSLIM SEPA ratist rebels said yesterday they will support a meeting of Southeast Asian tourism officials and industry leaders in this city, the site of deadly terror bombings.

Front said the ASEAN Tourism Porum on Jan 13 21 in Davao City wii, promote the peace process to end more than three decades of fighting for a separate

Mus im homeland in the south.

In a statement quoting Muhammad Ameen, secretary of the front's central committee, the rebess said MILR eeven without the request from the government The Moro Islamic Liberation or ATF, will help in whatever way to ensure the success of the fo-

> The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is comprised of the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia,

Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

Malaysia is brokering peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILE A ceasefire agreement signed in 2003 has prevented large-scale skirmishes between government troops and guerrillas.

The front said the tourism forum is a "significant step in propeace and (a tourism) destination" and that it was an "indirect endorsement" of the peace talks as the "most practical and civilized way" of resolving the con-

includes talks among tourism ministers from ASEAN, China, India, Japan and South Korea. Officials from national tourism orga-

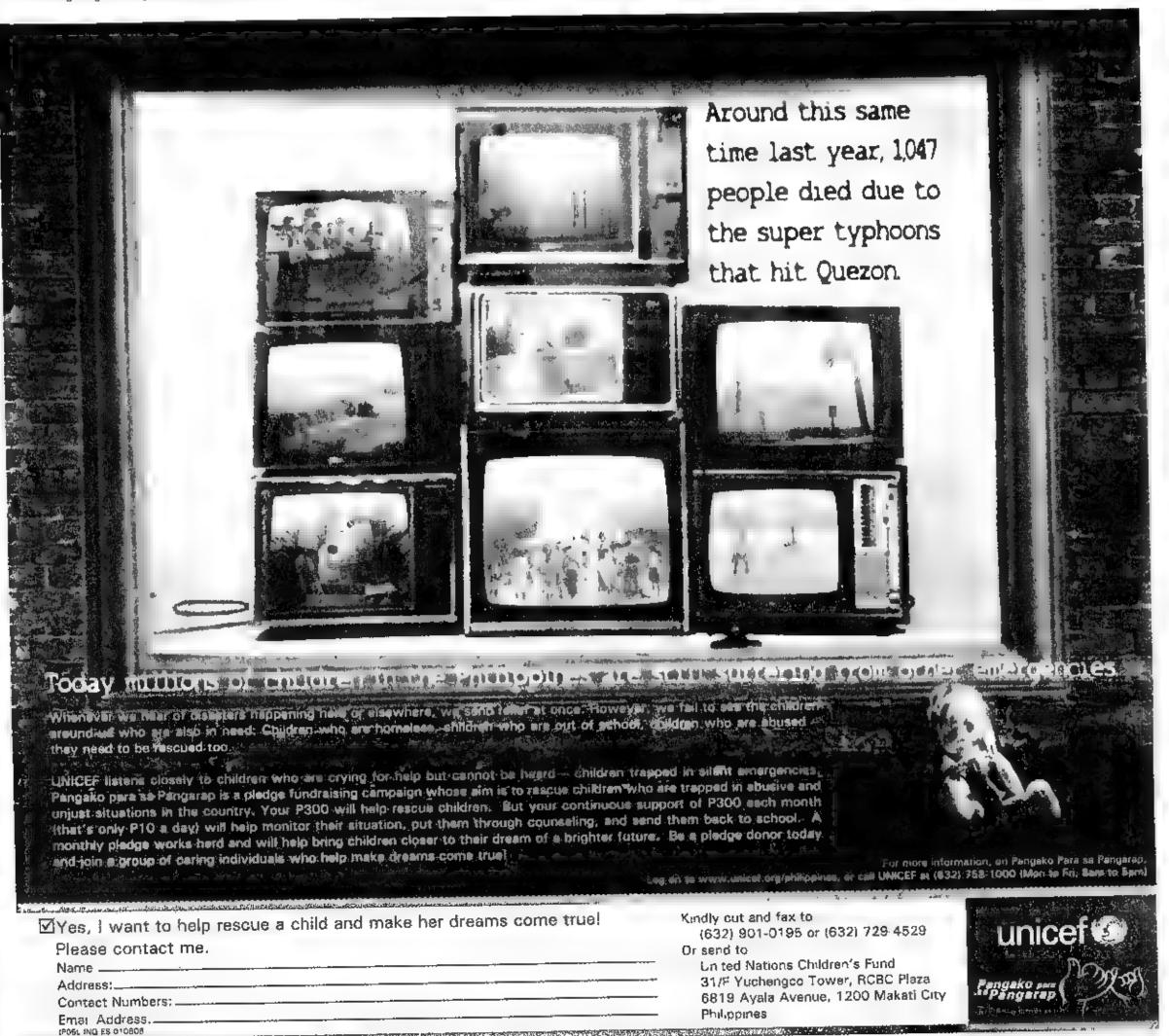
ecting Mindanao as a hub of mizations, the ASEAN Airlines Association, the ASEAN Hotel and Restaurant Association and the Federation of ASEAN Travel Association also will hold meetings.

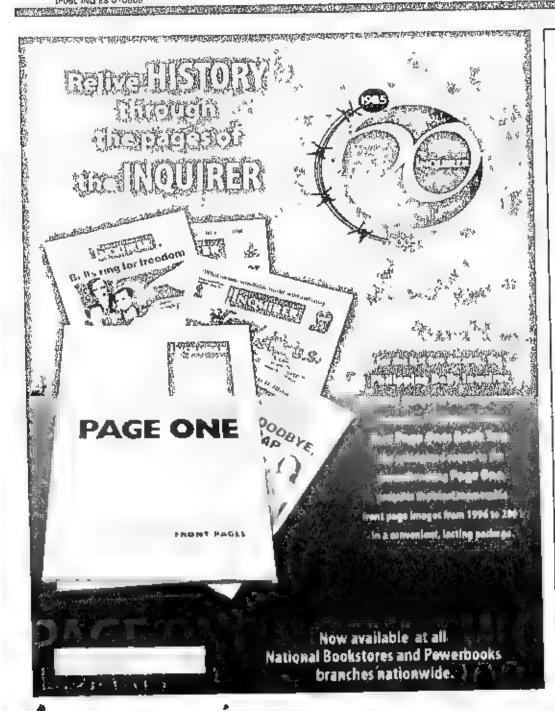
Separate bomb attacks in March and April 2003 by adeged opera-The nine-day townsm forum tives of the al-Qaida-allied Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islarmyah killed 42 people at the Davao airport and the local wharf. A terronst bomb last year killed a

boy at a bus terminal in Davao.

The mintery and ponce initially biamed the MILF for the 2003 bombings, but the rebes vehemently denied the allegation They suspended peace talks until the government withdrew the

The rebels later issued a statement disavowing any links to terfor groups and committed to help the military bunt them down. AP







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says ConCom chair

By Norman Bordadora

THERE'S NO NEED FOR FORMER "President Fidel V Ramos to wait for : President Macapagal-Arroyo's stand on the Consultative Commission's proposal to scrap elections in .2007 to set the stage for a full par-Thamentary system in 2010.

ConCom chair Jose Abueva I'said he told the former President Tat a meeting on Dec. 27 that Ms Arroyo had already endorsed the ConCom's proposed amendments · to the Constitution, including the Atransitory provisions and the noelection scenario.

Ms Arroyo endorsed the amendments before the holidays when she gave Speaker Jose de Venecia a copy of the commission's proposed Charter changes for consideration by Congress, according to Abueva.

"We invited Senate President · Franklin Drilon, but he did not attend the ceremony. Nor did he send a representative," he told the inouger in an interview.

Abueva was referring to the "rites in Maiacañang during which the ConCom submitted to the President the draft of the proposed amendments to the Constitution after it wrapped up its deliberations on Dec. 15. Ms Arroyo, in turn, gave a copy to De Veneria.

"The President has, in effect, already acted on our recommendations when she transmitted a "Itopy to Congress," Abueva said

"I told him [Ramos] the President has already transmitted to Congress the proposed revisions of the Constitution and those include the transitory provisions (calling for the cancellation of the 2007 polls)," the ConCom chair

Ramos' challenge for Ms Arroyo to come out with her position on "no-el" by the New Year has given rise to speculation that he is about to withdraw his support from the President. His meeting with Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III on Jan. 2 fanned the speculation.

Abueva confirmed Malacafiang's announcement that he and several ConCom leaders met with Ramos on Dec. 27. He described the meeting as a fourhour gathering "to celebrate our friendship."

Abueva said he, ConCom secretary general Lito Monico Lorenzana, and Commissioner Romela Bengzon were walk-in guests in the Urban Bank office of the former President on Buendia Avenue in Makati City.

"We already knew about his (opposition) to the no-el. In fact, he gave us copies of his statement," Abueva said.

He said he respected Ramos'

Abueva said Ramos explained that he never gave the President an ultimatum. "Only the media is saying that," said the ConCom

GMA backing 'no-el,' 'FVR only seeks dialogue'

Barbers on Wednesday night and vesterday called Claudio, according to Bunye.

But Bunye was mum on what Ramos had told Ermits and Claudio about the Jan. 2 meeting he had with Drilon and Sotto, saying he would rather that Ramos divulge the details himself.

If I were to give out the details of the Drilon meeting as relayed by the former President, I don't think this would be very flattering for Drilon and Sotto," Bunye

Ordon broke away from Ms Arroyo in July last year at the height of the "Hello Gard" disclosures that she rigged the May 2004 presidential elections. Sotto is closely allied with deposed President Joseph

Monumental blunder

Ramos is widely credited with saving the Arroyo administration by distancing himself from calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation over the election fraud charges. Last month, Ramos called a proposal by Ms Arroyo's handpicked Constitutional Commission to scrap next year's election a "monumental blunder" and warned her to state categorically her opposition to the move

The proposed cancellation of the 2007 election was aimed at paving the way for the shift in 2010 to a parhamentary system of government.

Although the Palace seemed upbeat on Ramos, an Inquirer source said that Ramos met with El Shaddai Leader Bro. Mike Velarde on

Wednesday at Velarde's home at the posh Ayala Alabang Village reportedly to lure him to his side and away from Ms Arroyo.

The source, quoting someone privy to the meeting, said Ramos reportedly told Velarde: "I don't bke this woman anymore. Let's all be together."

The Incurrent tried to reach Velarde for comment, but was told that he was resting with his wife. A female staff member who answered the Inquiter call dismissed the meeting as "pure speculation."

Ramos' supposed meeting with Velarde, one of Ms Arroyo's spiritual advisers, came two days after his talks with Drilon and Sotto.

"He's doing the rounds," the source said of Ramos. "He wants to send a message to Gloria, and at the same time, he's hoping that Velarde would side with him."

Burrye said Ramos had told Claudio that he intended to attend two important meetings to be convened by Ms Arroyo this month "to show very unequivocally (his) support of this administration."

Opposition scenario

He referred to the gathering of the national directorate of Lakas on Jan. 14 and the Council of State meeting on Jan. 24. Ramos is chair emericus of the Lakas-CMD.

In a phone interview and in a statement, Claudio said Ramos called him up yesterday to urge Palace officials to announce his intention to attend the two meetings in order to dispel speculations that he was switching sides.

"So how can he (Ramos) be planning important meetings and confirming his attendance and be conspiring with the opposition?" Claudio said.

He described as "unbelievable" and "malicious" what he said was the "scenario being foisted by the opposition on the whole country that President Ramos was getting together with them."

Claudio said it was Ramos who suggested before Christmas the convening of the Lakas caucus, as well as the meeting of the Council of State, the highest consultative and advisory body of the government usually attended by eminent

Claudio said the Lakas caucus would discuss the Charter change initiatives and come up with a common party position

Charter change, poli reforms

In the meeting of the Council of State, Claudio said Charter change and the need for electoral reforms, among others, were expected to be discussed.

Claudio said the two meetings were set when he and Ermsta met with Ramos on Dec. 27 to clear things about the controversial Charter change recommendations made by the Consultative Commission (ConCom).

"We explained to him that the President could not make an opinion on the ConCost proposals because this would preempt Congress for whom the proposals were intended," he said. "Afterward, he (Ramos) said he would just wait for the Lakas

and council meeting where he has confirmed his attendance."

in a statement, Bunye said the Palace viewed Ramos' meeting with Drilon and Sotto as part of "a series of consolidation meetings in the interest of national reconciliation and healing?

"We have confidence in the leadership and capacity of former President Ramos to bring other national leaders behind a strong agenda of social reform, economic takeoff and political renewal," Burrye said.

Poisoned politics

The Palace, he said, appreciated Ramos' institutive in "forging unity and cooperation among poatical leaders for the sake of the country."

"It is a welcome departure from the poisoned politics of the recent past and it opens a new path to national consolidation," he said.

Asked if Ramos was important for the survival of the Arroyo administration, Burrye said: "He is a respected leader and many people listen to his advice."

Asked whether he meant Drilon and Sotto then failed to achieve their objectives in their meeting with Ramos, he said: "We'll find out."

But Bunye stressed that Ms Arrovo was on "a very sound footing."

"We can see this in the way our peso is gaining strength. Our economic indicators are very positive. This is something that will not happen by themselves," Bunye said. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

Erap welcomes unity with Ramos, Aquino

From page A1

Estrada is under house arrest in Tanay on plunder charges.

However, it is unclear how the three presidents could meet since Estrada is held under strict security regulations which bar him from holding political meetings and giving media interviews.

Governing council

Morales said he believed the three former Presidents could serve as semor advisers of a transitory "governing council" that could be set up after Ms Arroyo stepped down

Ramos on Wednesday described the move as pure speculation but did not casegorically dismiss it. He said Estrada and Aquino could instead join him in "trying to create a one, national Philippines."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said it was "very unlikely" for Ramos to enter into an alliance with the opposition, much less deal with Estrada whom he helped unseat in 2001.

"Ramos is a very respected statesman and administration ally who will never work for the forcible removal of President Arroyo," said Nograles, a

stalwart of the ruling Lakas-CMD party founded by Ramos

But in the remote possibility that their albance happens, the Arroyo administration is still very stable and strong enough to cope with such an unlikely event. At best, such an alkance will gain so much propaganda value and psychological advantage for the opposition forces. But surely not enough to bring her down," he said.

'Impossible dream'

Another Lakas member, Rep. Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City,

THE ORIGINAL!

a "balancing force" in the midst of the politi-

"Morales is in a fantasy land with his impossible dream of seeing Cory (Aquino) and FVR (Ramos) working to ease out the President in an undemocratic way. We know FVR to be a real statesman and enlightened leader of our party. He will never turn against democracy," said Domogan

Domogan, vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, believed that all issues and concerns about Charter change could be threshed out peacefully by administration allies.

"We, in Lakas and the administration coalition, have proven our unity in the various issues facing our nation. FVR will remain with us as our leader. FVR has already denied that such a meeting with Cory and Brap is in the works saying it will never happen. That alone should snap Morales and UNO out of their

dreamland," he said Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, an Aquino supporter, said it was unthinkable for Aquino to form an alliance with the united opposition since "she is firmly for a constitutionai transfer of power."

Cagas, who was appointed officer-in-charge of Davao del Sur by the Aquino administration, said Ramos and Aquino would not want to go down in history as "pillars of an unboly alliance."

Old dragon

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said that while the possible alliance of the former Presidents might have been and Norman Bordadora

said both Ramos and Aquino had proven to be discussed this week with opposition stalwarts, the UNO was not actively courting Ramos but would welcome him

"We are open to all, " Escudero said. "The former President is already an old dragon and you cannot trick or force someone like him to do something he does not want to do."

"What's wrong if they decide to talk about what is good for the country? It's not like they're talking about coups. That would be a different matter," Escudero said.

He said a Ramos defection from the administration would give a boost to the opposition and show an overwhelming dissatisfaction with Ms Arroyo's continued rule.

Escudero noted that Ramos had been given "too much credit" last year for saving the Arroyo presidency.

"He was given credit for preserving the loyalty of the Armed Forces and saving Gloria when it was not only Ramos who stood by her," he said.

PNP loyalty

But Director General Arturo Lomibao, chief of the Philippine National Police, brushed aside speculation about where Ramos stood, saying the former President would not abandon Ms Arroyo. "So what is there to be worned about?"

An alhance of the former Presidents would not affect the loyalty of the PNP to the Commander in Chief, said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson

They are outside the chain of command. We're confident of the loyalty of our people, even those who had served (Ramos)," Baraoal said With reports from Luige A. del Puerto

The Church-run Radio Ventas borrows

It was on Radio Veritas that the lare Manila

Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin called Filipinos

to troop to Edsa to defend coup leaders Fidel

Ramos and Juan Ponce Enrile. Their defection

from then President Ferdinand Marcos triggered

the collapse of his 20-year dictatorial rule.

Correction

much of its credibility from its role in helping

topple the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

Church goes on TV with own station and "synergize" one another, Coronel said.

From page Al

ing about how the media, specifically newspapers, have been reporting about Church and religion.

Archbishops Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato earlier sniped at the media for allegedly portraying bishops as divided on political issues. Others like Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros had come to the defense of Davao Archinshop Pernando Capalla for his supposed soft and vague approach to the political crisis during his incumbency as CBCP president.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and his supporters also furned over an INQUIRER report that Ms Arroyo had surreptitiously donated P1 million to his "Pondo ng Pinoy" project. He said he had no knowledge of the donation but later admitted it went to Radio Veritas.

But TV Maria was apparently not the Church hierarchy's response to what some of its officials claim as unfair reporting by the media.

Treasures of the Church

Coronel said its programs would be geared toward promoting moral values, especially among the young and poor.

"They are the treasures of the Church," he said, noting that the youth and the poor comprise about 50 and 70 percent of the population, respectively.

Por a start, programs will include family counseling and the explanation of Church doctrines courtesy of bishops and their corresponding application to the young, the CBCP secretary general said.

"We are trying to strengthen our youth because the future of the Catholic faith relies on (them)," he said.

that appeared in the Correction box on Page A4 is that of Olongapo Judge Avelino Lazo-not Judge Renato Dilag. At left

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a photo (right)

AVELINO LAZO

is the photo of Judge Dilag, Our apolo-Readers may send their requests for correc tion of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building.

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PER STINCT PERMIT NO. SOLT BERISS OF 1901

PNP says suspect involved in other high-profile crimes

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By Marlon Ramos PDI Southern Luson Bureau

IMUS, CAVITE—THE WAY POLICE say it, Rodolfo Cuer is a professional

: Cuer, the man suspected of killing Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon, was involved in highprofile crimes in Cavite, Bulacan and Las Piñas City even at an early age, said Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Southern Luzon police director.

Verzosa said Cuer was only in his mid-20s when he killed Japanese businessman Uehara Tsutomo in Las Piñas two months ago.

He said witnesses-including the victim's partner, Corazon Santos--identified Cuer as the man who gunned down Tsutomo, 45, near the latter's residence.

Business rivalry was the motive in the killing, Verzosa said. He said police had information that Cuer had been hired by suspected Yakuza members.

Verzosa said Cuer and some of the men earlier arrested by police in connection with the Gingoyon murder were members of the Velazquez kidnap-for-ransom group.

He said that aside from kidnapping, the group was also into gunfor-hire activities and robbery.

According to Verzosa, Cuer was involved in at least three heists at pawnshops and a betting station for horse racing in Marilao, Bulacan, and Bacoor, Cavite, in 2004.

Ouer is also suspected to have taken part in the kidnapping of a German national in Alabang, Muntinlupa, a few years back, he said.



MEDIA presentation at Camp Crame of six suspects in the murder of Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon. The suspects stand behind (from left) PNP Chief Arture Lomibao, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and NBI officer in charge Nestor Montaring.

Cops free 5 of 11 men held in judge's murder

From page A1

tion earlier disclosed that in an extrajudicial confession, one of the suspects said he had heard from his companions "words pertaining to the mastermind."

"(But) we are not revealing that first, because it is not supported by other evidence," Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, chief of the Southern Luzon Police, said at the press conference.

No definite link

Barcena had admitted his disputes with Gingoyon, but strong-

ly denied involvement in the murder

Pressed to say what police had against Barcena, Verzosa would only say that the latter had some affiliation with the

"We have some information [that] Colonel Barcena was once the chief of police of Bacoor I think you have copies of the affidavit of the late judge stating the disputes and charges and countercharges [between Gingoyon and Barcena]," Verzosa told remite link."

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said the PNP considered the case "partially solved" with the arrest of the supposed gumman.

Mastermind/motive

"[But] we still have to find out the mastermind, and the motive behind the killing," he said.

Lomibao later said urvestigators had a possible motive and a possible mastermend, but that this information could not be di-

But he added: "There is no def- vulged as yet so as not to jeopar- on Tuesday afternoon. dize ongoing operations.

In Bacoor, Gingoyon's eldest child Hazel expressed the family's appreciation at the swift arrest of the suspects, but said the PNP should make sure that those arrested were not fall guys.

"We hope the justice for our father will not be an injustice to others. I am sure our father would not like it to be like that," Hazel told reporters at the wake on Wednesday.

She said the family also appreciated Lomibao's visit at the wake

Speaking with Gingoyon's four children, Lomibao promised that the PNP would exert all efforts to arrest all those involved in the killing, including the master-

The PNP and NBI have jointly filed murder charges with the Prosecutor's Office against Cuer; Danny Sulaiman alias Sahid Adam Sulaiman, who allegedly gave the blood money to Cuer; Rudy Baclor, whose house was ailegedly used in planning the ambush and who made the extrajudicial confession, Efren Samonte, the alleged lookout; Mark "Mac-mac" Datas, the alleged driver of the getaway motorcycle, and, Filemon "Boy Negro" Rabi no, who allegedly provided the murder weapon.

They are all detained at the Cavite Provincial Jail.

NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring told reporters that Baclor might later be recommended as a state witness in the case.

Custodial investigation

Verzosa said the arrest of those released was not unlawful.

He said the five men were not hurt and only out under custodial investigation.

ban, 25; Rolly Raga, 45; Boyet Uyın Manila

Ramos, 26; Filemon Arciaga, 47, and Gregorio Ignacio, 34

Arciaga's partner, Alicia Aposrol, said she and their children were very happy to learn that he had been released

She tearfully insisted that Arciaga was innocent of the accusation against him: "He's just an ordinary driver. If you want, you can go to our place and ask our neighbors about him."

Analyn Ignacio said she was happy that her husband Gregorio, a scavenger, had been freed, but admitted that she was still angry at those who had arrested

The woman and other relatives of those arrested trooped to Camp Pantaleon Garcia in Imus early on Tuesday and patiently held a vigil there.

Some of them said that despite the certain expense, they were thinking of filing charges against the arresting policemen.

Jessi Rabino said she was firm on filing charges against the police agents who picked up her husband Filemon (Boy Negro) from their house in Green Valley.

She said that all of a sudden, her husband became a suspect just because he was wearing a black jacket. With reports from The freed suspects are Tony Sa- Margaux C. Ortiz and Jocelyn R.

JUSTICE IS A LADY

A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE CECILIA MUÑOZ-PALMA FROM PRESIDENT JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

Justice Muñoz-Palma, I mourn your death.

I have lost a respected friend and the country has lost a pillar of democracy and the rule of law.

Appropriately, you were our first woman Supreme Court Justice and the shining light of the mission to craft the 1987 constitution

I take quiet pride in having drawn you from your treasured privacy to lead the PCSO to a new plane of credibility.

I will ever cherish your few words on the events of 2001 when you challenged the opinion of the Supreme Court, as you mourned another Joss "The 1987 Constitution suffered. when the ongoing impeachment of President Joseph Estrada was unceremoniously

disrupted and discontinued and the issues on hand were brought to the parliament of the streets. The Rule of Law was set aside and the Rule of Force prevailed."

Justice Munoz Palma, as I grieve, I am reminded of a song of decades past which you yourself may remember

"JUSTICE IS A LADY. JUSTICE, IF YOU'RE STILL THERE, I WILL HAVE MY FAIR SHARE."



Gov't checks 'rolling store' boarding, avoids traders

From page A1

Maiacañang

thinks so.

It has decided to give the contract to run state-sponsored have resorted to hoarding most rolling stores to barangay officials of their allocation of subsidized and community-based organizations, according to Environment ket prices for a huge profit at the Secretary Michael Defensor

The government has been the intended beneficiaries. bicked by unscrupulous traders who diverted millions of pesos worth of instant noodles and National Food Authority (NFA) rice to stores and other outlets.

"We trust the barangay captains more because they show more concern for their constituents than businessmen who are just out there for the profits," Defensor said in an interview in Malacañang.

the government's plan to sell more subsidized goods, primarily instant noodles and rice, using part of the P35 billion in savings for pump priming this year.

The President has put specall emphasis on the sale of rice (at P18 per kilo) and instant noodles (at P4.25 each) because these have become the staple of poor Filipinos.

lilegal diversion

The illegal diversion of subsidized goods could have cost the government tens of millions of pesos, considering that it has spent no less than P600 million a year for the program since 2001, according to Trade Secretary Peter Pavila.

Manufacturers of noodles and other basic goods sold in rolling stores such as coffee, sugar, sardines and cooking oil have been complaining that intended for the poor have convenience stores.

found their way to sart-sart and grocery stores, Favila said.

Some traders running the "Tindahan ni Gioria Labandera" goods and seiling them at marexpense of the government and

In a statement, Malacafiang said that "because government funds and logistical resources are also limited, measures have to be adopted to ensure that government subsidized rice (and other products) would truly reach their intended beneficiaries anywhere in the country."

Secret monitoring

Pavila said the government He has been asked to explain had adopted clandestine monitoring of the delivery and distribution of the subsidized goods and tightened the screening of beneficiaries.

In place of the "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" stores set on mid-sized truck, President Macapagal-Arroyo launched yesterday the first of the "Tindahang Pinoy" convenience store in Barangay Payatas in Quezon City.

Government agencies have putched in their resources to plug the loopholes in the food retailing program for the poor. The NFA and the Department

of Agriculture have imposed strict measures on the sale of rice, while the Department of Social Welfare and Development has purged its list of family beneficiartes in select depressed areas.

The Department of Trade and industry has been helping in the accreditation of barangay leaders and community groups some of the discounted goods that would run the state-owned



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Russia, Ukraine clinch deal in gas row

BRUSSELS-THE EUROPEAN UNION VOICED ITS relief on Wednesday after Russia and Ukraine reached a deal to end their natural gas price war but warned that lessons had to be drawn from the crisis.

are satisfied with the deal," EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said before an emergency meeting of gas experts cut short by the accord clinched in

But he told reporters: "It is clear that Europe needs a clearer and more collective and cohesive policy on security of energy supply."

Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom reached an agreement overnight with Ukraine on the price Kiev would be charged for natural gas, appar-

"We are happy that both sides entity ending a crisis that has hit supplies in western Europe.

Under a five-year agreement effective from Jan. 1, Ukraine will buy gas at a rate of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters (about \$2.75 per 1,000 cubic feet) from a Russia-Ukraman joint venture, officials

The EU imports more than 40 percent of its natural gas, and around half of that comes from Russia. Experts predict that the Union's dependency on outside energy sources could reach 70 percent by 2020.

icy is still in its embryonic stages. Austrian Economy Minister Martin Bartenstein, whose country took over the EU's rotating presidency for six months on Jan. 1, also said that lessons had to be

The matter is not entirely behind us. We have got to draw conclusions from this and learn how we should deal with these sorts of things in the future," he told reporters after the talks between gas experts.

"We've got to ensure security of supplies and capacity," Barten-

Piebalgs added: "As long as we spend more energy we will be getting more and more dependent, and we should be looking at

However the bloc's energy pol- the energy sources we have here facing Europe. in the European Union."

German Economy Minister Michael Glos, whose country is by far the biggest European importer of Russian gas, said he hoped the "regrettable" row had been "settled once and for all."

Italian Poreign Minister Gianfranco Fini also welcomed the deal and the "sense of responsibility of the two countries."

Fini, who had called without success on the EU to mediate in the dispute, said he hoped the agreement would "contribute in a decisive way to the stability of the European energy market."

Bartenstein said Russia would remain a major supplier of gas to the EU but that the dispute had highlighted the supply problems

"Russian gas will remain one of the backbones of European gas supply, to be the backbone for Austrian gas supply," he said. But certainly gas supply security in general is an issue in these days and months."

The meeting of gas experts was called a few days before Gazprom turned off the gas taps to Ukraine after it refused to accept an unmediate four-fold hike in prices, apparently to bring it into line with the European market.

But as supplies were cut on Sunday, supplies bound for several European countries across Ukramian territory also began to dwindle, amid accusations that Kiev was siphoning it off.

Representatives from Gazprom

and Ukraine's Naftogaz had been due to take part in the meeting in Brussels but finally did not ap-

Bartenstein said the ensis would focus the EU's energy policy, which is currently the almostexclusive domain of the Umon's 25 member states.

"We have had a decade of liberalization, of improving competi-tion and now we will focus more on supply security and a new defimpon of the kind of energy mix we want," he said.

His country's foreign munister, Ursula Plassnik, said it was "in the immediate interest of all European countries to find common solutions and projects to guarantee long-term security in energy

India takes census of threatened tigers

MUMBAL-ARMED WITH RADIO collars and high-tech cameras. hundreds of wildlife experts fanned out across a vast mangrove in India's east on Thursday as part of the world's largest cen sus of the endangered tiger.

Alarmed by reports of largescale poaching in India's famed uger sanctuaries, about 250 officials used speedboats or walked through muddy creeks and marshland looking for tell-tale footprints, or pugmarks, in West Bengal's Sunderbans, the world's largest natural nger habitat.

"This census is the 4 world's biggest and the most scientific to date," Pradeep Vyas, the census chief, told Reuters from the Sunderbans, a 10,000 sq km (3,900 sq mile) sparsely populated mangrove marshland on the eastern coast.

Conservationists, who have been highly critical of India's efforts to protect the tiger, have also expressed reservations over the accuracy of the pugmark sys! tem, saying the method has in the >. past masked the big cats' dwindling numbers in the country's national parks.

In March, the Indian government was criticised after reports said the entire tiger population of up to 18 animals at the Sariska 🚓 tiger reserve, one of the nation's most prized reserves, had been killed by peachers and that numbers across the country had fallen rapidly.

In response, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formed a special taskforce to suggest ways of saving the big cats.

For the first time, the latest tiger census will use specially designed computer programmes, camera traps and radio-collars tracked by satellite to avoid any duplication in recording pugmarks.

The last census in 2003 estimated there were between 260, and 280 tigers in the Indian part of the Sunderbans, home also to hundreds of saltwater crocodiles and rare river dolphins. Reuters



BIRD FLU OUTSIDE S.E. ASIA

Turkish teener dies after brod succumbs

ANKARA, TURKEY-A SECOND Turkish teenager who tested positive for bird flu died early Thursday, the semiofficial Anatolia news agency reported.

Farma Kocyngit died in a hospital in the eastern city of Van, four days after the death of her 14year-old brother, Mehmet Ah Kocyigit, Anatolia said.

Preliminary tests have confirmed both cases as bird flu. If they are as confirmed as being from the deadly H5NI strain, they would be the first human futalities outside southeast Asia in the current outbreak.

Ahmet Park Oner, the doctor who was treating the siblings, said the girl died at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, Anatolia re-

Seven other patients with similar symptoms were being treated at the hospital. They include another garl from the Kocyigit family, also suspected of having bird flu, who is in serious condition,

Oner said on Thursday.

The Kocyigit children helped to raise poultry on a small farm in the eastern town of Dogubeyazit, and were in close contact with

Health Minister Recep Akdag. speaking late Wednesday, did not say if Mehmet Alı Kocyigit had died from HSN1. The samples would be sent to a British lab for further tests on Thursday morn-

Akdag contradicted a munistry statement earlier this week that, said the boy's death at a hospital in southeastern Van province on Sunday was not caused by bird flu. Akdag said authorities repeated the test in two separate laboratories following an autopsy on the boy.

"There are two cases that have i been confirmed as positive by the laboratory," Akdag said. "Another case is suspected of being posi-

"We have a pandemic plan ready," Akdag said. "There is no

More than 50 dead in new Iraq violence

BAGHDAD—A SUICIDE BOMBER day on a local official of the Dawa blew himself up in the middle of an traqu funeral procession on Wednesday, the bloodiest in a string of attacks across the country that left more than 50 people dead and scores more wounded.

The bomber, wired with explosives, walked up to a group of about 100 Shute mourners burying the victim of a drive-by shooting in the small town of Mukdadıyah, about 100 kilometers northeast of Baghdad.

He detonated his bomb at the graveside killing 37 people and wounding 45 others in the deadliest suicide attack since Iraq's parliamentary election on Dec. 15.

The funeral was for a bodyguard who died overnight after being wounded in an attack Tues-

party of outgoing Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari.

A young gid also died in the shooting although the target of 1 the attack survived. The official, | Ahmad al-Baga, was at the funeral and again survived Security forces immediately

cordoned off the town as families rushed to its overcrowded hospital looking for relatives.

Army medics were drafted in to help treat the wounded. In other violence, at least two

car bombs exploded in the capi-

One blew up outside a police precinct issuing identity cards in a Shute neighborhood of north Baghdad. Five people were killed and 13 wounded.

Dubai architect becomes ruler after emir dies

his teeth at the Little Rock Zoo,

Jan. 2, in Little Rock, Ark.

DUBAI-THE MAN WHO TRANS formed Dubai from a dusty Gulf city into a glitzy metropolis took over as ruler of the booming emirate, succeeding his elder brother who died on Wednesday.

The UAE's defense munister and world renowned racehorse breeder Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Mak tourn succeeded Sheikh Maktourn bin Rashid al-Makroum, who was also vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates.

The elder Maktoum died in Australia on Wednesday. He was in his early 60s and had suffered heart problems.

"The UAE has today lost a historical leader who dedicated his life to building the nation and doing good for its people," a statement from the UAE presidency said.

The UAE is a federation of seven emirates which include Dubai. Each emirate has a separate ruler and heir apparent, who preside over a local government.

been well known as co-owners of Dubai's Godolphin stables which competes in major horse races. The younger brother was the more high profile of the two in racing circles and spent several weeks a year in Britain.

At home, the elder Maktoum maintained a low profile, preferring to allow his younger brothers to run the day-today affairs of Dubai, the Gulf region's trade and tourism hub.

The new ruler has been credited with presiding over Dubai's transformation into a hub for trade, finance, property and tourism-marked by opulent shopping mails and futuristic architecture-to wean itself off dwindling oil

The capital Abu Dhabl holds most of the oil wealth of the UAE, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Export-

Economists said they did not expect

Internationally, the brothers had Sheikh Maktoum's death to impact Dubai's booming economy.

maining in the wild.

"I don't see too many changes, in recent years his (Sheikh Maktoum's) rule was very limited as an active maker of policy," said Simon Williams at the Economist Intelligence Unit. "His brother Sheikh Mohammed has been the real driving force."

The UAE's main stock markets halted trading after the news was announced. The Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange said it would close for a week from Thursday.

Officials said UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan would also soon appoint a new prime minister and vice president for the Gulf Arab state to succeed Sheikh Maktoum.

Sheikh Maktoum's body would arrive in Dubai for burial on Thursday, Dubai's official WAM news agency said. The UAE declared 40 days of mourning and state institutions will close for a week.

Condolences poured in from leaders around the world. German Chancellor Augela Merkel said the country had lost Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed

Nazil will attend the funeral. UN chief spokesperson Stephane Du-

jarric said in New York.

"He will be remembered for his many years of visionary leadership, which helped build stability and prosperity in the UAE in the midst of dramatic developments in the Gulf region as a whole." The UAE has been a major donor to the Palestinians, whose Prime Minister Aimed Qurei said: "He always supported our Palestinian people and their right to establish an independent state whose capital is Jerusalem."

Organizers of one of Dubai's main tourist attractions, the Dubai Shopping Pestival, said all festivities related to the one-month event would be cancelled. DSF started on Wednesday.



SHEIKH Mohamed bin Rashed al-Maktourn

Sharon fights for life after brain hemorrhage

From page Al

the country into turmoil barely three months before a general election that is likely to determine the future of Middle East peacemaking.

fate The hawk-turned-peacemaker widely expected to have far-reaching consequences for the Middle East peace process.

The 77-year-old Sharon, dubbed "the Bulldozer," underwent seven hours of surgery before doctors were able to halt bleeding in his brain. But he remains in critical condition.

Doctors called a halt to an initial bout of surgery after six hours, but Sharon had to be readmitted to the operating theater for another hour when complications arose.

Severe but stable

"Prime M.n.ster Sharon is in severe condition (but) he is stabie," Shlomo Moryussef, director of Jerusalem's Hadassah bospital, told reporters.

Moryussef said Sharen had been transferred from the operatmg room to the neurological ward after a scan confirmed that the breeding had stopped

Two of Sharon's closest allies-Transport Minister Meir Sheetrit and Ronni Bar-On, the leader in partiament of the premier's Kaduna (Forward) party-both confirmed the gravity of the situation by saying the prime minister was "fighting for his afe."

The powers of the premier, who is seeking reelection in a nationwide poli scheduled for March 28, have been transferred to Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Manister Ehad Olmert.

Sharon's admittance came hours before he was due to undergo a procedure to repair a small hole in the heart to prevent a repeat of a minor stroke he suf fered on Dec. 18 last year.

End of Sharon era?

Sharon's precanous state of health will upser all previous predictions of the outcome of the election in which Kadima had been expected to romp to victory, with commentators already declaring an end to the Sharon era.

any suggestion that the election military and political landscape be postponed.

Sharon's second stroke also comes amid rising chaos in the Palestinian territories ahead of a Jan. 25 legislative election.

Sharon fel. il. while he was at his ranch in the southern Negev desert. He was admitted to the hospital just before 11 p.m. (2100 GMT)

Omert told an emergency Cabinet meeting that it was important the country did not come to a standstil.

"We are all praying for the prime minister. We are living with a difficult and complex situation but the government is functioning and Israel is functioning," sa.d Olmert.

Overweight

US President George W. Bush, who urged the overweight Sharon to go on diet after his first stroke, sent his prayers to the man he hailed as "a man of courage and peace."

There was also a get well message from Palesonian Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei who offered

1 st Reading:

untie his sandals."

Commentary

THE DAILY GOSPEL

my Son, the Beloved, the One I have chosen."

God among us. We overcome the world with life!

(Claretians in the Philippines)

Friday, January 6, 2006 Before Epiphany

André Bessette

He preached to the people saying, "After me comes one who is more powerful than I am, I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth, a town of Gablee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And the moment he came up out of the water, heaven opened before him and he saw the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And these words were heard from heaven, "You are

Jesus is making his appearance, known as the son of Joseph in a long

line of believers in the covenant of God with his people. But it is John the disciple who tells us who this Jesus truly is-this man is the favor of God,

God's Son who has life. There is the testimony of water, blood and the

Spirit. And we have known all three in our lives: baptism, confirmation

and eucharist, and so have this life within us. We are called to believe: to live with all our being, witnessing to the power of life and the presence of

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you in the Holy Spirit. As for me, I am not worthy to bend down and

Mark 1:7-11 (or Luke 3:23-38 or 31-34, 36, 38)



SHARON is shown in this handout photo released by the Israeli government press office in 1978 when he was agriculture minister.

his prayers and "great concern." Sharon has already announced his intention to serve a full term by which time he would be 82 and by far the oldest prime minister in the history of the Jewish state.

However, commentators said it would be virtually impossible for Sharon to now realize his dream of a third election victory.

Even if he does recover, he will have a very hard time convincing the public of his ability to serve four more years, after undergoing two strokes in two and a half weeks," wrote Haaretz columnist Alaf Benn.

"One can cautiously say that it appears that the era in which Sharon stood at Israel's helm came to a tragic end on Wednesday."

Don't mess with us

Sharon's spokesperson Ranaan Gissin said Israel's enemies should not seek to exploit the turmoil, warning Palestinian militants and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah "not to entertain any notion that they can start any escalation."

This is not the time to mess with us," said Gissin.

But the Islamist movement Hamas shed few tears for its archenemy, with its chief spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri declaring that "the world is on the verge of being rid of one of its worst leaders."

Few of Israel's prime muusters Officials, however, dismissed have left such a mark on both the as the controversial Sharon over the last half a century.

Sharon, who transformed himself from an altra hawk to a man regarded as a peacemaker, and his parry have been riding high in the opinion polls. The Kadima is forecast to emerge as the largest party after the election.

Son faces prison

Although Sharon has been able to attract other heavyweights such as Olmert, the Kadıma is seen as largely a one-man band with few concrete policies or party institutions.

Sharon has been under huge stress in recent weeks, not least with the prospect of his son Omri facing prison after he pleaded guilty to charges relating to allegations of illegal financing of one of his father's leadership campaigns.

Sharon has also had to face the prospect of a resumption of fuil-scale Palesmuan violence after the armed factions called off a truce in the countdown to the election in the West Bank and Gaza.

1 Jn 5:5-13

Poor girl finds, returns P300,000

very well have changed her life as she knew it But the idea of malong off with the money rist did not occur to her. "Hindi naman sa akin yun, e (But it's not mine)," she said shyly during an interview near the makeshift family home in Ouezon City.

Against the advice of neighbors, Cristina decided that the money would be returned to its owner, who, as of yesterday, was still unknown.

GMA 7 reported later last night that Cristina had turned over to the rightful owner, a

Motorcyclist

Cristina said she picked up two wads of P1,000 and PS00 bills tied together with rubber bands, as well as a handful of checks, at about 7:20 p.m. the other day along T. Gener Street in Barangay Kamuning.

She was chatting with a friend when she saw the money fall out of a man's bag as he was speeding past on a motorcycle, she said.

Family members had been keeping mum on the exact amount in order to keep false claimants at bay. (According to other reports, the stash is worth P420,000.) Cristma said the man wore a helmet. Pami-

ly members said they could identify him by asking for details about the cash and checks issued by various banks. Three persons had approached the family,

each claiming the money. But the family wanted to be very sure about the windfall, which was in the safekeeping of Jie and Bong Mateo, Cristina's aunt and uncle.

Neighbors had urged Cristina to split the loot with them, but she was firm: The cash and checks should be returned to the man-

She said it would be a pity if the man were fired because of the lost money.

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Brenth, gam disease, tools decay

It was not the first time that the girl returned something of value that she had found. Last year, she returned about P5,000 to a newspaper vendor, in 2004, she also gave back about P1,000 to a tricycle passenger.

Ironically, Cristina was once accused of filching a few pesos from the sale of snacks at the school cafeteria though the charge was largely unsubstantiated, Luzviminda Bugayong said. The mother said she confided that the first thing she did on seeing the money was to touch the bills-just to know how such a big amount "felt lifte."

By Luzvimmda's own estimation, the money can help the family start a sort-sort store.

But this believer in karma said there was no way they could have kept the money: "Di natin alam kung ano ang magiging kapalit (We don't know what the cost will be).

Rough times

A neighbor, Marie Mateo, said the Bugayongs were going through rough times, sometimes skipping meals because they had no money. Relatives often had to help out by giving them food, she said. The father, Cesar, is out of work.

Luzviminda helps out at a canteen that prepares meals for a few offices, and takes in wash on the side. She makes about P2,000 a month at the canteen, and P250 a week for the laundry jobs.

Cristina is the sixth child in a brood of eight, with ages ranging from 22 to 5. Only Cristina and 10-year-old Nerissa are in school because there is

was very proud of her daughter's honesty. But she — not enough money for the rest, Luzvimunda said.

The mother said Cristina did not excel in academics, but that she made up for it by ai-

ways going to school and studying her lessons. "Matiyagang matuto (Diligent in learning)" was how Cristina's adviser, Joynalyn Isip, de-

scribed her to reporters. When the subject of a reward finally came up, the girl could only say "Nasa kanya na 'yun (That's up to the man)."

Reward from mayor

Mayor Feliciano Beimonte Jr. said he had sent Counchor Ariel Inton Jr. to determine the needs of Cristina and her family.

"It's just right to reward that kind of behavor," the mayor said.

He added that the city government would give

Cristina a plaque of recognition, and that a scholarship program for her was being considered.

Councilor Edcel Lagman Jr. said he had drafted a city resolution commending Cristina for her honesty.



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Wink, wink

IDEL V. RAMOS HAS RAISED WINKING TO AN ART form. No president in our history has been as coy in public. Or as fligations. To do: public. Or as flirtatious. Today, a mad scramble is taking place to divine where the former president's affections really belong. Ramos himself has helped things along by sending mixed signals.

First, he had a picture taken on Dec. 27 with Chair Jose V. Abueva of the Constitutional Consul-EDITORIAL tative Commission, Secretaries Eduar-

do Ermita and Gabriel Claudio, and Commissioner Carmen Pedrosa, Ramos was grinning from ear to ear, and giving his trademark thumbs up-mere days before the deadline he gave to President Macapagal-Arroyo to reject a proposal to cancel the 2007 elections. Today, of course, the administration cites the photo as evidence that everything is hunky-dory between the President and her predecessor.

Then, early this week, Ramos had a meeting with former Sen. Vicente Sotto III and Senate President Franklin Drilon. Wine, it was said, was drunk. Beyond that, everyone involved remained uncharacteristically tight-lipped.

Ermita, who took part in the late-December photo-op (preceded by a four-hour meeting), loftly spun the meeting as Ramos' way of bringing back erring politicians to the administration's fold. "Given the mental frame of former President Ramos, we would like to think that even if we do not know what they talked about, he will always work along the national interest and if any, I'm sure that President Ramos will play a unifying role in the government. I don't think it was a meeting where people might think that maybe he was being convinced to join the cause of the opposition or vice-versa," he said.

Then from the camp of former President Joseph Estrada came noises to the effect that it would be wonderful if the three living former presidents got together. For what? One Estrada loyalist, former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales, said it might be a sign that the three leaders were preparing to meet, but added the he didn't know actually what Ramos, Drilon and Sotto had discussed.

Pressed, during a television interview, to state categorically whether he was for or against the administration, Ramos snapped, "C'mon."

Ferdinand Marcos loved to say the same thing. "Aw, c'mon" was a characterístic Marcosian expression of skepticism. And apparently it is one of his cousin's fa-

Talking-and winking-is cheap. But what does the public really know about what Ramos has been up to? Not much. He seems dismissive of Morales' hopes about the three former presidents combining forces. Indeed, how can they possibly unite? Ramos would have to go to Aquino, since she preceded him to the highest office and and was once his commander in chief; and then together, Ramos and Aquino would have to see Estrada, which Cory may be able to swallow, but surely not Ramos.

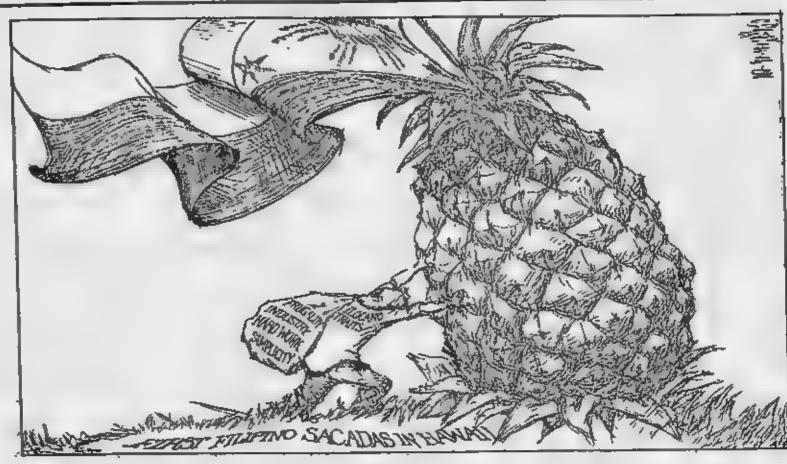
The closest the media have come to extracting from Ramos a hint of where his real affections lie was when he said on the same TV show: "You want me to join you? Why don't you do something better? You join me in trying to create a one, national Philippines." That seems to suggest that he is less interested in an alliance and would

prefer a coronation. A story, which may or may not be true, provides some useful clues about his plans. Prior to the political crisis in July, it is said, Ramos was a lonely man, starved of attention, with barely a flunky or two willing to accompany him on his golf games. After he helped save the President, observers began to marvel at how large, and adoring, Ramos' golfing retinue had become. It was as if, said one,

he were president again. Of one thing the public can be sure: the former president's golf buddies today must be legion. Everything he is currently doing only helps to ensure more games, more sycophants, more junkets, more media attention.

Is this a case of "pride goeth before the fail"? Or does Ramos really have something up his sleeve?

But isn't that exactly the point of Ramos' exertions these past days, to keep people guessing and therefore keep them thinking he matters? For now, the man who is not famous for betting big, seems to have bet the farm-on the incumbent, who obviously has a different schedule for stepping down from the one he has put forward.



The poor prefer jobs, not food handouts

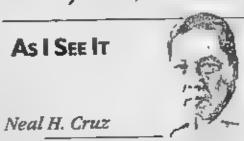
THE INQUIRER REPORTED EARLY THIS WEEK that two of President Macapagal-Arroyo's closest allies and most ardent defenders, former Election Commissioner Virgibo Garcillano and Rep. Prospero Pichay, are urging the reopening of the Election Returns (ERs) to prove that she did not cheat in the 2004 elections. I have written a number of columns urging the same, and 1 Neal H. Cruz am glad that at least two of GMA's allies share the same view. Pichay even echoed this column's argument that since the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) is already recounting the ERs for the vice-presidential candidates, because of the electoral protest of opposition candidate Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro, it might as well do the same for the presidential candidates whose votes are written on the same ERs.

It would be sensible for GMA to follow the advice of Garci and Pichay-if she really did not cheat, that is. GMA's guilt or innocence can be gauged from how she reacts to the proposal If she did not cheat, she would immediately endorse the proposal and have a petition filed with the PET to that effect, But if the suspicions that she and Garci cheated were true, she would either keep quiet or put up excuses for not reopening the ERs.

So we would know whether GMA is a bogus President or not by how she treats the proposal of her two allies.

Come to think of it, Garci is supposed to be GMA's partner in crime in the alleged cheating So, why would he urge the reopening of the ERs if he knows they cheared? Is this just another trick in the labyrinthine saga of the Garci tapes? Is this a result of their desperation to put behind the questions about her legitimacy? Or does Garci really believe that reopening the ERs will prove definitely that GMA won "fair and square" and therefore erase all doubts about her legitimacy?

On the other hand, why did GMA's allies in Congress reject all efforts to reopen the ERs in places questioned by the opposition? If Congress did not railroad her proclamation,



there would be no doubt about her presidency now. And had the PET not dismissed outright the election protest of Susan Roces, substituting for her dead husband, Fernando Poe Jr., there would be no doubt as to who is the president now-if GMA did not chest. And if the House did not throw out the impeachment case, there would be no suspicion whatsoever

But because GMA's allies used technicalities and their superiority in numbers to thwart all efforts for a fair hearing of the election results, she is now resping the whirtwind. One cannot help but suspect that there was skullduggery behind all the efforts to block the reopening of the ERs. The suspicions will not go away until she proves definitely that she won without cheating. And the efforts to get her out of Malacañang will not cease until the end of her term unless she erases all doubts that she is the rightful President.

The only way to do that is to reopen the

The President announced with much fanfare in greeting the New Year that she would allocate P35 billion as food subsidy to the poor. She did not say where the P35 billion would come from, except the vague assertion that it would come from "savings." If there were such savings, why were many infrastructure projects halted for lack of funds? Why have thousands of teachers, war veterans and other government employees not received the remuneration due them? Why is the government not paying its obligations to contractors and suppliers if there is enough money?

But assuming she would be able to scrape the money for the food subsidy, is this a wise way to use this much money? The poor need jobs, not handouts. They would be much happier working for their food rather than receiving them like beggars. Handouts fill their stomachs but rob them of their dignity. Handouts promote a culture of mendicancy. Get the people used to eating handouts and they will see no need to work or even to look for jobs. Why bother to work when you can cat without working anyway?

This culture is now becoming evident in families with members working abroad. Family members here who receive money from their OFWs regularly don't bother to look for jobs anymore. They just wait for the monthly handouts from their relatives

The amount of P35 billion is a lot of money coming from the pockets of taxpayers. Couldn't it be put to better use by generating jobs for the poor? Then the money is recycled for more productive pursuits. Spend it all for food subsidy and it goes one way into the stomach and then to the toilet. No productive chain reaction except perhaps babies.

Unfortunately, that is the only way the President knows how to stop the plunge in her popularity rating. This is now a policy of her administration: indirect bribery. That was how she made administration congressmen block the impeachment case her. That was how she made local government officials support her in the impeachment fight. That was how she made all of them support Charter change. And that is how she plans to pull herself out of the hole where the popularity polls have dumped her.

And that is why the government is going bankrupt despite squeezing the people for more and more taxes. (Prices will go up again this month as she raises the expanded value added tax to the maximum 12 percent. That's her New Year's gift to the peo-

Tinkering with free speech: the latest con

THERE IS ONE MAJOR CHANGE THAT SEEMS to have been smuggled into the draft revisions of the constitution. The new draft, while purporting to reiterate the freedom-of-speech clause, adds an innocuous-looking word. "No law shall be passed absidging the responsible exercise of the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press Who after all can object to the requirement that rights be exercised responsibly? Isn't that one of those motherhood and apple-pie statements, like Miss Universe contestants gushing, "I wish for world peace"?

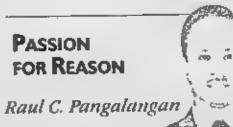
Hold your horses. Adding the word "responsible" may seem like an innocent admonition in a Sunday homily, in a grade-school parentteachers' meeting or, come to think of it, in a family planning seminar. But when it is added to a constitution, nay, to the Bill of Rights, you must recall the classic advice of the all-time greatest US Chief Justice, John Marshall, "It is a constitution we are construing." And he concluded: "The power to [regulate] includes the power to destroy."

The settled rules of constitutional exegesis affirm the power of the word-every clause must be given effect—as well as the power of history—the literal text yields what history

Commissioner Sergio Apostol explained on ANC the other night that the clause was just hortatory (my word, not his), and that it is more of an appeal to media practitioners to behave themselves. In that case, the constitution is not the place to do it, and the word "responsible" is superfluous, the lawyer's version of "borloloy."

But the best proof of the peril of constitu-tional superfluity is that the Constitutional Consultative Commission itself saw fit to eliminate one such seemingly harmless word from the 1987 Constitution, dropping the word "duty" in the definition of judicial power.

The 1987 Constitution has the following paragraph in laying down the power of the courts: "Judicial power includes the duty of the courts of justice to settle actual controversies involving rights which are legally demandable



and enforceable" Now, now, who can object to such a bland formula? Blandness after all has its virtues. But then it also has its mischief.

The aim of the founding fathers was benign. they felt that the courts during the Marcos years were so supine and malleable, and deferred too much to Malacañang. To stop the courts from washing their hands when faced with crucial cases, it was argued by former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, one of the 1987 drafters, we must make it both a power and a duty to decide cases.

But words take a life of their own when they are written into a constitution and left to the courts to interpret, and the unintended result, according to Justice Florentino Feliciano, was to push the courts into the "uncharted waters of social and economic policy-making."

The recent constitution drafters seem to agree, and will now drop the "duty" clause altogether. Yet having discerned the accidental vice of the word "duty," they unwittingly sin anew and add the word "responsible" else-

The real danger now is what meanings history will beckon. Remember GMA's Calibrated Preemptive Response in hosing down peaceful ralliers, that has been chastised by the Human Rights Commission's Purificacion Quisumbing. Just imagine what wickedness the authors of the CPR can do with the "responsible

The website of the Consultative Commission contains reader-friendly summaries of the proposed reforms. Significantly, the commissioners do not consider this amendment one of the "highlights" of their work. If they considered it unimportant, then they do not under-

stand how constitutions work and how words can very well alter the balance of powers in our political democracy.

There is actually nothing original in saying that rights must co-exist with responsibility. The 1948 Universal Deciaration of Human Rights closes with a separate article saying: "Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible." But remember that the Declaration actually begins by saying: "Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law."

The proposed draft lays the groundwork for curtailing human rights, and will push us to what the Universal Declaration calls our last and final recourse:

One year ago, I put in a good word for Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge Henrick Gin goyon who was hearing the airport expropriation case (Naia "Taking". Wise or Simply "Wals"?, PDI, 1/21/05). I said that I didn't know him and had never met him, but felt that he had been unfairly criticized by government lawyers for ordering the state to pay up before it confiscated private property. He then emailed me a touching thanks, saying that, not being computer savvy, he had to ask his young son for help to send me the note, "the first email letter I have ever written." In December 2005, after almost a year, the Supreme Court upheld the correctness of Gingoyon's orders. I noted the vulnerability of the "solitary judge [who] has to bear the full brunt of public pressure, and he can do so only with personal strength and confidence in the correctness of his rulings. Some have been assassinated, praised as 'heroes' in death but without the support and encouragement they could have

I condule with the family he leaves behind, and offer my prayers in their time of grief.

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

OPINION

Contradictory interests and objectives

THE CONSPIRATORIAL ATMOSPHERE OF CAPItal city politics thickened this week with the report that former President Fidel Ramos, Senate President Franklin Drilon and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III met in the Urban Bank penthouse office of Ramos in Makan last Jan. 2.

The purpose of the meeting remains undisclosed. All three have been evasive about the agenda, although they have not denied it. However, the ambiguity was sufficient to whip up speculations over their purpose. Their political backgrounds served to heighten speculation that the meeting could signal a new push to revive the failed effort to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The meeting broke the Christmas holiday hill, during which the media were contented to report soft news, and the speculation did not make up for the lack of hard news.

The heightened media interest over the event only proves that no matter what they say about Ramos being a thing of the past, his actions make good news and he is still the hottest man in the news, sometimes eclipsing the President as a newsmaker despite the advantage of the presidenry as a bully pulpit. It would be dangerous to write off Ramos as a political force or as a political ally.

The ostensibly non-event of a meeting at the Ramos office has also served to reinforce public perception that he has remained a potent kingmaker and powerbroker-s role he played with considerable savvy as the savior of then President Corazon Aquino from numerous military coups and recently of President Arroyo from the collapse of her government following the Cabinet defections of July 2005.

The fact that he convened the Jan. 2 meeting confirms that Ramos holds the political initiatives that can create options for the resolution of the current crisis of the Arroyo government, that he is playing his cards well and that the media, always in search of a good story in the absence of hard news, are playing into his hands.

The hardest part of the meeting story is that it

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



ample, a story is being made out of the following

First, only two weeks ago, Ramos denounced Ms Arroyo for committing a "monumental blander" in backing the proposal of the Constitutional Consultative Commission to cancel the 2007 elections and give her a guaranteed term up to 2010, in the transition to the shift to the parliamentary system. He went on to give her an ultimatum to reject the proposal or else he would withdraw his support from her. The ultimatum has the ring of political blackmail that Ms Arroyn cannot dismiss out of hand.

Second, Drilon is being pushed by the Black and White Movement, our equivalent of the post-US Civil War Ku Klux Klan that terrorized the emancipated blacks and the Yankee "carpethaggers" in the reconstruction of the South, for transitional president, in the event of Ms Arroyo's removal.

Third, Ms Aguino, a leading figure in the Black and White Movement, has called for the resignation of Ms Arroyo. She is reported to be pushing for Drilon as transition president in case of a snap election, an event that would be possible only if both the President and Vice President Noli de Cas-

Fourth, Ramos has called for an early exit by Ms Arroyo (by 2007 if the shift to the parliamentary system takes place following the holding of parliamentary elections in 2006).

From the above facts, it may be argued that Ramos and Drilon, acting as proxy for Ms Aquino, share a common objective in cutting short Ms Arroyo's stay in office.

Fifth, the third participant in the meeting was was held. Everything else is background. For ex- Sotto, a supporter of former President Joseph

Estrada. This brings Estrada into the picture, which only makes the conspiracy scenario convoluted. For what interest of Estrada is served in such a plot to topple the Arroyo government? It is not what he gains in a successor government.

The alleged plot took a harder form after former Agrarian Secretary Horacio Morales, an ally of Estrada, confirmed that an embryonic United Opposition, composed of sectoral organizations, had met last mid-December to consider plans to form a coalition among the three ex-presidents that would put pressure on Ms Arroyo to step down, after street actions demanding her resignation during the past six months have failed.

But Morales, who is more of a theoretician than a pragmatic strategist, assumes that "If we get these three national leaders, I think it's a very symbolic situation where we have the three former presidents joining forces." Such a coalition will really add power and fuel to the (resignation) movement," he has said.

The three are presumed to have power bases: Ramos has significant influence in the Armed Porces and is chairman emeritus of Labas-CMD. Ms Aquino is believed to have retained much of her popularity, although this appears to have been eroded in the current crisis. Estrada is presumed to have remained popular with the masses.

You can imagine if three former presidents take the same position. How can the (people) ignore that?" Morales said. "Being former presidents, (they) have a very direct connection with the greater majority of the people."

Question: How does one mesh the contradictory objectives and political interests of the three ex-presidents who have incompatible ideological orientations?

No wonder, Ramos, a political pragmatist, has reservations. "There is no way that will happen," he said. Morales' plan is "based on speculation, rumor and their own scenarios ... there is nothing to that."

Still, all these plans boil down to one option: resignation. They have blasted all hopes that a fresh wind of change will blow in 2006.

Thinking about 'medical tourism'

AT LARGE

proper nutrition.

ON ONE HAND, THE BOOM IN "MEDICAL tourism" could stem the tide of the medical diaspora which has seen Filipino doctors not just leaving the country for more lucrative practices abroad, but even abandoning their medical training to "re-train" as nurses, for whom there is greater demand abroad

On the other hand, since the great majority of medical tourists come to the country for cosmetic surgery or high-end procedures like heart bypass surgery and organ transplantation, the few doctors who do choose to stay on would most likely opt for these lucrative specialities, even as the great majority of the Philippine population lack even the most basic health care

On one hand, medical tourism could restore the reputation for excellence of Filipino doctors and other health personnel. With doctors and allied health personnel striving to meet the higher standards of care in keeping with the stringent requirements of foreign medical tourists, the entire nation could only benefit from the services of a better-trained and regu-

lated health corps On the other hand, the country's present health situation—with health services polarized between a high-quality but expensive private sector and an affordable (if not free) public health system that however is not really accessible nor of any quality-could only grow worse with medical tourism driving a bigger wedge between the

"haves" and "have-nots." On one hand, medical tourists could also encourage owners of hospitals and other tertiary health institutions to remain competitive by maintaining their facilities, upgrading their equipment and keeping up with the latest developments in research and technology.

On the other hand, the pressure to meet the market demands of medical tourism can only result in even greater emphasis on building bigger and more expensive hospitals, with perhaps government money even going to the construction of "medical centers," which could put the edifice complex of the infamous limeldific to shame. This would only draw attention and money away from primary health care—which the majority of Pilipmos really need-and which require no infras-

Rina Jimenez-David tructure other than small health centers, passable roads, clean water, skilled birth attendants and

WHAT should be obvious from this "on one hand...on the other hand" listing is that the prospects and challenges of riding the medical tourism wave, which has already crested in neighboring countries like Thailand and Singapore, cannot be viewed from a simple

"black-and-white" perspective. Medical tourism is neither completely evil nor completely harmless. What's needed at this point, as the tourism department and the department of health gear up to meet a rising demand for local health services from aproau, are clear policy guidelines that would minimize the negative impact of medical tourism while keeping the focus on the real health needs of the people

One of the possible ways of mitigating medical tourism's less savory effects on the local health situation would be the imposition of a special tax on profits made from medical tourism. The tax money should then go to the training of "poor but deserving" health per-sonnel who will in turn have to commit to serving disadvantaged communities for a minimum period, as well as to the provision of primary health care in the poorest areas.

A STORY right next to that on the "medical tourism boom" shows the way to go for poor com-

The story features the recent graduates of a three-week training program for community health workers, also known as "barefoot doctors." As the accompanying photo shows, many of the care strategies.

graduates indeed trod the ground on their bare feet, as they are members of indigenous communities, for whom medical care, as one of the participants noted, is "very little if not nil."

Though they cannot conduct operations or even diagnose serious illnesses, the "barefoot doctors" receive enough training to perform basic first aid, diagnose simple ailments and basic diseases, spot the signs of health trouble that may necessitate referral to a trained doctor, and advocate for good "health-seeking behavior" among

Surveys conducted over the last few decades have shown that this is the kind of basic health care that the majority of Filipinos need-but which is available to too few, such that too many of our countryfolk, especially children, die from simple, treatable diseases and ailments.

PERHAPS what we need at this point is to promote another kind of "medical tourism," with doctors and ourses based abroad or even in urban centers, paying regular visits to underserved communities around the country, making sure the poorest Pilipinos get to see a doctor at least once in their lifetime

Even better, these "visiting" doctors could be convinced to stay for even longer—through a system of incentives or recognition-either to serve communities directly or train young practitioners or "barefoot doctors" who could then provide long-term quality care.

A word of caution, though, about "medical missions" which involve lightning visits, some of which last only a few hours or a day, by teams of doctors, nurses and other health caregivers who provide free consultations and services to folks in a particular area.

Though these missions do take care of patients with acute conditions, they also serve to undercut the practice of permanent health care providers, such as midwives and small clinics. Too often, the missions end up creating a "mendicant mentality" among the poor, who choose to wait for the sporadic and rare medical missions rather than to prioritize regular visits to the clinics or adopt preventive health

Latin America at a crossroads

LAST YEAR WITNESSED A DECISIVE TURN IN Latin America. A growing number of countries in the region now seem determined to pursue their interests regardless of what the United States de-

José Miguel Insulza's election as secretary general of the Organization of American States, in which he defeated the candidate supported by the Bush administration, emphatically demonstrated the decline of America's continental leadership. The United States not only lost control of the OAS, which generally serves US interests, but also failed to persuade the 2005 Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, to endorse unanimously a declaration supporting US economic and political positions in the region. That setback was all the more striking, given that the summit was structured to defend and promote US positions

Attempts throughout 2005 by the Bush administration to discipline Venezuela's government also failed. President George W. Bush was simply unable to get other governments to back the poliry of isolation that he sought to impose on Presi-

dent Hugo Chávez's administration America has also been frustrated in its effort to obtain regional support for its policy of direct involvement in Colombia's internal strife

Of course, not everything is going against America. The election of the Colombian Luis Alberto Moreno as president of the Inter-American Development Bank had clear US backing. This means that the bank is likely to continue its orthodox, neo-liberal policies.

But a clear line in the sand has been drawn between Latin American countries that want to pursue regional integration on their own terms and those that favor hemispheric integration under

Led by Brazil and backed above all by Argentina and Venezuela, the first group's project is the

COMMENTARY

Raúl Alfonsin

construction of the Community of South American Nations. The Mercosur countries—Brazil and Argentina, plus Paraguay and Uruguay—seek the defense of their respective national interests and a more just and democratic international order: they are not looking for a confrontation with any-

In the second group—the countries that pursue a direct relationship with Washington-there are two trends. Some countries, such as Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, act individually, while others, notably the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, act from a regional perspective. All of them are in line with the policy already initiated by Mexico and, to a lesser extent,

But it is the ideological picture that presents the starkest contrasts. Indeed, there could be political consequences affecting the entire region if the confrontation between Venezuela and the United States worsens, and if Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional wins an electoral victory in Nicaragua. The United States is likely to consider the eventual formation of a triangle linking Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua as a direct threat to regional stability, putting Latin America dangerously atop the Bush administration's security agenda. The triumph of Evo Morales' Movimiento al Socialismo in Bolivia will only fan this anxiety.

To be sure, one should not view Latin America in 2005 only in terms of the region's relations with the United States. There are also deep concerns about the internal situation in many countries that suffer almost permanent political and

institutional crises, such as Haiti, Ecuador and Bolivia. Unfortunately, the structural rauses that originated these crises won't begin to be resolved

Indeed, local problems are likely to exacerbate regional tensions. In 2005, Chile and Peru faced off over their maritime border. In Bolivia, there are mounting revanchist pressures for recovering sea access, which was lost to Chile in the 19th century, and to use gas exports as a pressure point. The dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua over navigarion on the San Juan River and the heated jurisdictional arguments between Colombia and Venezuela also help raise regional tempers.

All these tensions pose the threat of a new arms race, and this at a time when the region's worst problems are poverty, inequality and the marginalization of indigenous people. If these problems go unattended, destabilization will undoubtedly grow.

Finally, massive migration is contributing to the region's anxieties. The problem is not just illegal migration to the United States. Migration, triggered by dire economic conditions-and, especially in the past, large-scale violence-is also occurring between Latin American countries. Keeping the movement of people peaceful will pose a serious challenge to the region's leaders in the months and years ahead.

Throughout Latin America, if poverty and violence are not ameliorated, tennions are bound to grow. The region is truly at a crossmads. The new year may well determine whether it lapses back into the sad days of the chaotic past or finds a new maturity to strike out-in conditions of liberty and democracy-on its own path to growth and **Project Syndicate**

Raul Alfonsin was Argentina's first democratically elected president after the full of its military dicta-

Tunnel vision

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE ASKED RACH OTHER: IS there light at the end of the tunnel? It's a metaphor for our situation, the feeling that we're groping around in despair, in

In the last few weeks, the Arroyo administration's been doing a bit of this hope-mongering. We are told that thanks to the wisdom of the President and her economic team, we are moving forward economically, the best proof being the strengthening of the peso.

Apparently healthy

I don't know, but I feel very uneasy about the way the peso's going. If I may use a medical metaphor, we have an "ap-

parently healthy" peso, but that description actually has PINOY very negative conno-Kasi tations in the medical world.

We hear of patients who go to the doctor for a consul-



they're not feeling well. The doctor will order a battery of tests and will not find anything wrong. The patient may suddenly collapse, coming up with very serious problems, maybe even dying. The term "apparently healthy" is used in retrospect to de-

scribe these patients when they first came in. In many of these cases, the patient did in fact have hidden problems which couldn't be detected-congenital defects in vital organs like the heart, for example, or some chronic ailment, including cancers, that had been growing through the years but that still escaped diagnosis.

I can't help but compare the peso to an "apparently healthy" patient. The "patient" does have compraints, but the doctor (the government) dismisses these as trivial. And I'm afraid that one day we'll all wake up to find the patient has taken a turn for the worse.

What are some of the danger signs we're seeing?

Think of the seafarer remitting about \$1,000 a month. At its strongest last year, the peso-dollar exchange rate broke the P56 mark. Right now, government officials are proudly proclaiming the exchange rate could reach P51 What would that mean for a family depending on the seafarer's remittances? That's PS,000 less a month. That's loose change for the President and her economic advisers, but amounts to the monthly mortgage the family is paying on their house, or a semester's tuition.

For relatives who use the money for business, that reduction of P5,000 can mean even greater opportunity losses because it's P5,000 less capital. A few weeks back, former Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Ciclito Habito wrote in his INOUSER column about the dollars coming in through overseas workers' remittances, but not being spent. I see the dollar influx—which is mainly responsible for the amazing fluctuations in exchange rates—not as a sign of confidence in our economy but of oversess workers being worried about their families, and the families here hanging on to their dollars and dinars and yen, keeping it for rainy days ahead rather than investing them in business.

More cheap imports

On a macro level, the low exchange rate will have even more dire consequences. We bring in fewer dollars through our exports as the peso "strengthens." Meanwhile, our imports become "cheaper." I don't mind if it means cheaper books, but what we'll have is an even greater flood of cheap imported food, clothing and electronics, which will further kill our local industries.

I worry, too, about how the earnings of overseas workers go toward these imports. It's already been happening the last few years—just look at returning overseas workers lugging all kinds of electronics purchased abroad. Those dollars never make it into our economy.

Then they come home, and spend more dollars at the duty-free shop. And after settling in, they buy more imported stuff. I saw this recently with someone returning from Japan. Within two weeks of her return, she had spent P40,000 on pasalubong, gifts for relatives, and because she had come in from overseas, she had to buy imported

A "strong" peso weakens an economy like ours, where we need export earnings, and by export I don't just mean semiconductors and garments but our "people" exports, the overseas workers. A "strong" peso weakens our economy as well because we are so addicted to imported stuff, which becomes dirt-cheap, and which leads us to spend more to support other countries' industries, rather than

Back to the tunnels

This takes me back to the point of tunnel vision People with tunnel vision only see the light at the end of the tunnel. They rejoice prematurely, probably even becoming reckless as they try to make their way to the end of the tunnel. That light "blinds" them to the realities: that making it to the end of the runnel depends on many other factors that relate to the tunnel itself, for example, the strength of the walls, the presence of other obstacles within the runnel, perhaps dangers like pits and chasms, maybe even wild animals (read currency speculators in the case of the

This diagnosis of an apparently healthy peso comes from economists who subscribe to neo-liberal "free market" perspectives in economics. Leave the currencles on their own and never mind possible long-term adverse consequences

China is an example of a country that goes beyond tunnel vision, resisting the pressure to have a "stronger" renminbi After months of pressure from countries like the United States, China compromised last year by allowing the remninbi to go from a dollar exchange rate of 8.27 to 8.10, a very cautious float.

The Chinese know they need to continue to bring the dollars through their exchange rate, and to keep imports a "bit" more expensive. As an example, once when I was looking for an electric shaver in Shanghai, a department store clerk brought me two Philips shavers: one cost the equivalent of PS00, the other P3,000. They looked exactly alike, and the clerk explained that the cheaper one was made in China while the other one was imported. Then he brought out even cheaper shavers, with Chinese brand names

I was amazed to hear a Chinese official on BBC the other day, explaining the basis for their economic policies. He said China recognizes it will continue to be a "less developed" country for the next 50 years. Their government's policy is to keep going at their present pace, making sure they can provide for their citizens during this next half-century, with hopes that by the next century, China would be a prosperous

We stand to learn from the Chinese. There's humility, recognizing realities and hmitations, as well as confidence 41 they set their sights all the way into the next century.

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OPINION

Come clean on the purges

speaking for the Communist Party of the Philippines, admits that the CPP had indeed violated Robert Francis Garcia and Rogel Navarro during the communist anti-infiltration campaign that claimed thousends of lives. (PDL, 12/11/05) Rosal also admits that the CPP failed to act on the wrongdoings of its operatives Kenny and Dex. But, unfortunately and contrary to Rosal's claims, not "everything regarding this matter has already been answered by the party."

Had it been, the CPP itself would have informed Weng Libre that CPP members killed his mother and father because they were falsely accused of being spies. Had it been, Jun Valmoria would not have had to travel all the way to Manila from Bukidnon to recover the bones of his younger brother Ben-Art, also falsely accused, killed and left to an unmarked

grave to be lost forever. If it is true that the CPP has a policy to inform the families of its victims, why did Libre, Valmoria and scores of others have remained dueless about their lost loved ones for two decades? If in- the CPP, its image or the light un-

ment offices to bring their atten-

tion to various concerns, but I

have yet to hear a response. Per-

haps, I will have better luck after

Last Dec. 22, while some

teachers from the UP Integrated

School and I were on some back

roads of Rizal, on our way to La-

guna, we saw a lot of chil-

dren-boys and girls, including

a number of very young

ones-begging for coms. This

was a scene for several kilome-

raising this matter in the media.

When children become a sorry mess

I HAVE BEEN WRITING GOVERN- ters. It was very much reminis-

should explain why it has been selective in the application of the

Meanwhile, the Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP), a CPP breakaway group, should explain why it has stonewalled, deceived, misled and, to this day, refused to help the family of Josemari Enriquez recover his bones. After many years, countless meetings and money spent on an exhumation in 2001—that led only to tears of frustration-Joseman's kin still has nothing but the PMP's empty words and promises.

plain why its political and ideological interests have to ride roughshod over everything else, including the quest for justice for its victims. "It's sad that they are once again bringing up this issue to put the party in a bad light in the wake of the forthcoming anniversary," Rosal said. If he genumely believes this, then, indeed, it is sad-nay, tragic-that the CPP for all its claims to ideological supremacy, still misses the point that we are not concerned about

cent of what we saw in lahar-af-

fected areas many years ago. The

children would run after coins

dropped by passing motorists,

oblivious to other cars, trucks

and the dangers they got them-

One need not actually go as far

as the hills of Rizal and Tanny. In

the Cainta junction, motorists are

harassed by children, who go

through the motions of cleaning

True, there is much poverty in

their car windows.

selves and other motorists into.

GREGORIO "KA ROGER" ROSAL, deed such a policy exists, the CPP der which it is seen. We are concerned about:

1. Identifying and naming all of those killed in the anti-infiltration campaigns, from the earliest to

2. Locating and reclaiming the remains of those who were killed, reuniting them with their families and according them proper burial. 3. Finding justice.

If the CPP and the various splinter groups, such as the PMP, the Marxist Leninist Party of the Philippines (MLPP) and the Revolutionary Proletarian Movement of the Philippines (RPMP), want to truly Finally, the CPP needs to ex- correct mustakes and put the ghosts of the victims to rest, they must all make a clean breast of it by seriously acting on the above.

Let the CPP in marking its 37th anniversary, not just celebrate its triumphs; let it also remember those it had killed, and atone for their deaths by meeting our de-

-JOYCE ENRIQUEZ-STERRA, member, Pence Advocates for Truth, Justice and Healing (Path) Council of Leaders, e/o 45 Matimtiman St, Teachers Village, Queson City

our midst these days and we

must do what we can to help.

But what really bothers me is

the seeming inaction of our lo-

cal authorities. Kung dito sa "lo-

cal" na level ch walang naga-

gawa, paano pa kaya sa mga

motaas na "level" ng ating

pamahalaan (If nothing is done

at the local level, the more that

nothing can be done at the high-

er lever)? No wonder we are in

-CHO ENRIQUEZ,

choenriquez@yahoo.com

such a sorry mess.



a shrug, as he said in his letter, he should have told his daughter that GMA remains in office because the allegations against her remain precisely just that—allegations which have to be proven. After scrutinizing these allegations for six months, the opposition has not been able to present solid evidence against her. And following the rule of law in our country, she should be presumed

The charges are not reason enough for her to be taken out or to resign from the presidency. David's shrugging will just conhase the child; a specific answer as we proposed above will enlighten her. We feel that doing the latter will create a more conducive atmosphere for raising our children to become more responsible citi-

> -GEORGE U. LORENZANA, gourmasia@yahoo.com



Confusing response

WR WISH TO REACT TO LITO David's letter titled "For our children's sake." (PDI, 12/17/05) He didn't know what to say to his daughter who asked him why Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo remains in office despite all the allegations of fraud, cheating and corruption that have been and are being huried at her.

Rather than just replying with

We can also see that with or without the cooperation of opposition members, GMA is moving on and doing her job as President. Let our democratic institutions take care of putting a closure to these allegations.



WE WRITE IN RELATION TO THE news report titled "Cojuangco company to invest P30B in 3G network." (PDI, 11/23/05)

No Cojuangco buyout of AZ

We would like to categorically state that Antonio Cojuangeo is not in any way connected to AZ Communications Network Inc. We take particular exception to the baseless statements reported in the news item, linking Cojuangco to our company and pointing to Adelaida

in the corporation to Cojuangeo. For purposes of clarification, please note that Cojuangco has never been connected in any manner to AZ Communications Network Inc. and Zaragosa continues to be a shareholder of record of the company up to this time.

Zaragosa as having sold her stake

FELIZARDO P DELA MERCED, president, AZ Communications Network Inc., 2/P DPC Place Building,

2322 Chino Roces Ave., **Makati City**

As I have pointed out in previous stories, the group of Antonio Tanyboy" Copuangco has officially denied it has anything to do with AZ.

I spoke with a member of the staff in one of the offices at DPC Place. Even that person had the impression that AZ Communications is owned by Mr. Cojuangeo. Some staff members at the National Telecommunications Commission refer to AZ as a Cojuangeo company.

Of course, the incorporation papers at the Securities and Exchange Commission still named Adelaida Zaragosa as the owner of the company, which is why I always use the words "linked" and "associated" when referring to Mr. Cojuangco's purported ownership of AZ.

-CLARISSA 5. BATINO, **PDI** reporter

Best use of coco levy funds

ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO ROS- But alas and alack, we have not ales has asked the press to also report about the good that is happening in the Philippines to give a more balanced picture of our country, and enhance its image here and abroad

is about the wonder fuel-coconut methyl ester (CME), or more popularly known as cocobiodiesel-which, like the virgin coconut oil (VCO), comes from the Philippine "tree of life" and as proudly Philippine-made.

Extensive tests done by authorities have shown that this wonder fuel, when blended 1-2 percent with fossil thesel, can increase a diesel car's mileage by 10-40 percent, reduce toxic emissions by 50-80 percent, make oil change necessary only after 25,000 km, give more power and pep to the engine, make the engine run smoother and quieter, and thus prolong engine life. Partas Bus Line, with its fleet of 150 coaches, projects a potential savings of P62 million a year from the use of coco-diesel blend.

Biodiesel, of which cocobiodiesel is among the best-if not the best-has in fact been extensively tested abroad and is widely used in the United States, Japan, Thailand, Austria, Germany and many other countries. And we are proud to say that our very own Philippine-made CME has passed and surpassed all their standards

God has blessed the Philippines coconut tree, which provides a living for 3.5 million encount farmers, and their 25 million dependents. Our country supplies 60 percent of the world's coconut oil.

managed this resource efficiently, and the only ones getting rich from this resource are people from other nations, definitely not the coconut farmer. If we manage our coconut oil the way the Opec One relatively unreported news countries manage their fossil oil, then perhaps our country will not have to struggle with its crushing debt burden and economic woes.

> Why not use, then, the billions in coconut levy funds to set up an efficient and effective infrastructure that will make us produce and use coconut products-CME, coco flour, VCO, coco-charcoal, coco soaps and shampoos, coco fiber, coco cour, etc.-instead of importing foreign substitutes from other countries, thus draining our precious foreign reserves and benefiting in turn producers from other countries? (President Macapagai-Arroyo and her economic managers should take note.)

Our country imports around 70 bilion liters of oil every year. The use of CME will decrease our dependence on imported oil and save precious foreign exchange of around \$500 million annually

On the other hand, 75 percent of pollution in Metro Manila, the second most polluted metropolis in the world, comes from vehicle emissions.

And so I urge my brother Filipinos to use CME (and VCO). It is good for our diesel engines, our pockets, our health, our environwith many things, including the ment and our country. Bless God for giving us the coconut tree

-SAMUELYAR 118 Granada St., San Antonio Heights, Sto. Tomas, Bataugas

'Boulevard of broken dreams'

family and I have been commuting between Marila and Naga City in Camarines Sur. We celebrated when the Quirino Highway was completed some years back, because what previously took 10-12 hours of intense, careful driving was cut down to an 8-hour easy drive, Unfortunately, the highway deteriorated very quickly with ever-lengthening road slips and "half-roads."

This December 2005, the highway was in its worst-ever state of disrepair, such that our trip took ionger than if we had taken a PNR after his late father, unattended? Bicol "Bagal" train, or if we had How can Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" raken the old route. Cracks, ruts Tañada III, dishonor his late and craters marked whatever remained of the road. No wonder so many have been injured and killed on this highway, it took almost half a century to build Quirino Highway, named after the country's second president. Yet, it took less than five years for this vital artery to Bicol to disinte-

We were dumbfounded by reports that Public Works Undersecretary Salvador A. Pleyto is "pleased" with the state of the highway ("DPWH maintains DPWH website), and that Quezon DPWH's engineer Ronnel Tan had denied the road's poor condition. We saw for ourselves how the socalled permanent engineer and crew "maintained" the road by fu-

FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, MY tilely pouring hot asphalt on huge

Rains may have caused the highway's deterioration. But its condition is also a good indication of the level of corruption in this country. If we were to judge the politicians in charge of the Quirino Highway in the Quezon and Bicol provinces, they would be as washed out as that short-lived thoroughfare.

Rep. Rolando Andaya is in charge of appropriations. How can he bear to leave that sutted stretch in Camarines Sur, named grandfather's name with huge bilboards announcing a Tañada as being in charge of the repair and rehabilitation of the worst roads in Quezon province in the last 30 years?

If President Macapagal-Arroyo is indeed bent on ending corruption in the country, she should take the road trip to Bicol and feel for herself the real state of the nation's roads. As for us, we are taking the longer but car-friendlier route through Camarines Norte back to Manila rather than risk Manula South Road," 9/11/05, our tires, axies, lives and lumbs in the "boulevard of broken dreams" that all of the corrupt politicians have made of Quirino Highway.

-DOODS AND SOL SANTOS, doodsantos@yahoo.com

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Town tells 350 Clark firms: Pay taxes

By Jun Malig PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA-IN AN UNEXPECTED turn of events, the local government here has asked some 350 business locators inside the Clark Special Economic Zone to pay their business permits and local taxes beginning Jan. 1 this year.

move the Supreme Court's resolution in March last year that nul-

They cited as legal basis of the ness locators inside the economic

This town's move came as a lified the tax incentives of busi- surprise to officials of the Clark olution, the local government

Development Corp. (CDC) and members of the Clark Investors and Locators Association who had been keeping their hopes high for the immediate passage of two bills in the House of Representatives that would grant tax amnesty and duty free privileges to business enterprises in Clark and other economic zones.

In a letter to the CDC, Mayor Marino Morales and municipal treasurer Angelito Pelayo said pursuant to the high court's res-

would start collecting the mayor's permit, building permits, and business taxes from Clark

Morales said the municipal government has every right to collect the taxes and fees, as more than 90 percent of the special economic zone is within the territorial jurisdiction of this town.

On Oct. 23, 2003, the Supreme Court nullified the second sentence of Section 3 of Presidential Proclamation 420 of former President Fidel Ramos that granted

tax incentives to business locators here, in Camp John Hay in Baguio City and in Poro Point in La Union.

The high court clarified that tax exemptions are granted only to Subic Bay Freeport Zone, the only existing special economic zone when Republic Act No. 7227 or the Bases Conversion Development Act was enacted in 1992.

court affirmed with finality its Oct. 23, 2003 ruling through an tax and duty incentives were asen banc resolution. The case

tors on April 25, 1995, when Vicente Lim was still head of the Bases Conversion Development Authority

CDC officials and coalition members have been wormed about paying back taxes and duties since the issuance of the high court resolution.

Some locators said they would On March 29, 2005, the high relocate to China and other economic zones in the region where

emportal filteration with

DA chief asks farmers to follow weather



TUGUEGARAO CITY-Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban has urged Cagayan farmers to follow planting cycles to avoid losses when floods strike their farms.

The problem with [your] farmers is that they plant without [fol-

lowing the] weather guide, hence floods always come before their crops are harvested," Pangaruban told Gov. Edgar Lara and Department of Agniculture officials in Cagayan Valley during a meeting on Wednesday.

Reports from the DA said recurring floods have destroyed P1.8 billion worth of rice and 'corn in Cagayan Valley and damaged more than 45 million hectares of farmland.

Panganiban said he would work for the release of P4 million to rehabilitate farms and provide post-harvest facilities to farmers.

He also urged agriculture officials to teach falmers to follow planting cycles, study the local climate and prepare a weather calendar to know the best time to plant and harvest crops.

The flash floods were caused by continuous rains that swelled rivers in Cagayan and Isabela. The water releases at the Magat reservoir an Isabela were also blamed for the floods.

Panganiban also promised to provide com and rice farmers in the region with two drying facilities to improve the quality of their harvests.

He said due to lack of technology, corn produced in Cagayan is good only for the manufacture of poultry and swine feeds.

in Ilagan, Isabela, Pangamban urged farmers to adopt scientific and modern methods of agricultural farming and to use rice bran or doyami as organic fertilizer

He also asked local officials to push through with the corn oil processing plant, which will be set up in Barangay Linglingay in Gamu town. "The best thing is do it here to cut on added

costs (in transporting the corn in Metro Manila) and to have more jobs," he said

He has initially released P18 million worth of com seeds to farmers in Isabela and Cagayan following a series of floods that ravaged the two provinces last month.

In a dialogue with Cagayan Valley officials and farmers, Panganiban said he released P12 milijon for Isabela through the regional agriculture office in Cagayan Valley. Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luxon Bureau

PNP tagged top rights violator

GENERAL SANTOS CITY-THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) in Central Mindanao said the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the region faced the most complaints for human |

rights violation in 2005. Jenudin Ulangkaya, of the regional CHR, told reporters that the figure was based on data from January to Sept. 5 last year

Ulangkaya said the CHR data showed that most of the 60 total human rights abuses recorded in the CHR regional office last year were attributed to police authorities.

The second top human rights violators were civilian criminals.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) came in fourth, while the New People's Army (NPA) came in next Ulangkaya said they were not surprised by the

data because the police have always been the top human rights violator in the region, at least based on the number of complaints against them. "They were the ones enforcing the law so they are very much vulnerable to accusations

of human rights violations," he said He, however, clarified that most of the human right violation charges filed against policemen had

already been dismissed due to tack of evidence. Ponce authorities said they do not mind being tagged top human rights violator

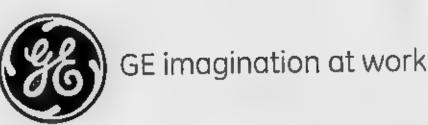
Senior Supt. Rolando Dalangin, operations cluef of the Central Mindanao police, told reporters they were just doing their job. Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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RP warned of more floods, disasters due to logging

LUCENA CITY-AN OFFICIAL OF of November Greenpeace, an international environment watchdog, warned that the deadly combination of abnormal weather patterns associated with clamate change and continued destructive logging would continue to wreak steps were taken by the government.

Von Hernandez, campaign director for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said in a statement that catastrophic floods had already been attributed to extreme precipitation associated with climate change

More devastation

"But even more extreme devastanon results when such abnormal weather events combine with the ef fects of destructive logging," Hernandez warned

Citing statistics, he said an average of 500 lives are lost every year due to the 17 to 22 typhoons that pass through the country annually.

"This figure more than doubled in November-December 2004 floods and landslides," Hernandez

He added that 10 times this which also occurred in the month fects of heavy rains

These numbers and other statistics, such as damage to property and infrastructure, will increase as the frequency and strength of typhoons increase, he said

Massive floods occurred in Orienhavoc in the country unless concrete tal Mindoro, Isabela, Palawan, Quezon, Bicol and Caraga last month that left several persons killed and destroyed millions of pesos worth of

Dislocation

The floods, which occurred almost simultaneously, have also displaced tens of thousands of fami-

Hernandez recalled that the Philippines had already experienced the impact of this deadly combination many times in the past, the worst among them being the Ormoc tragedy in 1991 and the Aurora and Quezon disasters of 2004

"These disasters will continue to recur so long as measures to mitigate climate change and stop logging are not undertaken," he added.

According to the Greenpeace offinumber died in the Ormoc tragedy, cial, logging has exacerbated the ef-

He said that continuous logging-both legal and illegal-severely compromises the natural carrying capacity of forests, which act as effective barriers against strong winds, rains and landslides.

Hernandez said while the government cited extreme rainfall as the cause of floods, it has yet to acknowledge that the denudation of forest lands have also had a hand in the calamities.

Given the increasing prospect of extreme precipitation in the future, he urged the government to carry out stronger measures to protect remaining forests and stop destructive logging.

Urgent steps

He also called on the government to institute policies to reduce the country's dependence on climate change-causing fossi, fuel energy systems and create a massive shift towards renewable energy.

"Our experiences with earlier d.sasters should have prepared us to anticipate and take preemptive action against future environmental hazards," Hernandez said Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



ILOILO FEAST

ARMOUD AUMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Maasin, a mountain town 30 km from Loilo City, brought the year to a close by celebrating its fore and way of life through the Tultugan Festival, named after a bamboo drum, on Dec. 29. Maasin is floilo's leading producer of bamboo and its products, like "sawali" (mat), furniture, lampshades, fans, ashtrays, home decors and other handicraft. The town's watershed, which is the source of drinking water to tens of thousands in Itolio City, was reforested partly with bamboo since the 1980s.

ROUNDUP

Ex-village chair slain

SAN MIGUE: Bulacan—A former village chair was gunned down inside his farm in Barangay San Jose here on Saturday. Police said Eliseo de Leon, 49 died from bullet wounds in the head and body. Insp. Francsico Victoria deputy police chief, said two guarmen greeted De Leon and his helper before they pulled out their 45 call and 9 mm guns and shot the former village chair. The suspects flad aboard a white Toyota Tamaraw Revo. De Leon was lagged as the primary suspect in the 1998 murder of former Vice Mayor Manuel Dantis: De Leon was released from jail on Dec. 15, 2004, after he was acquitted of murder charges

Carmeta Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

60,60,60

ORGANIC!

Negros goes organic

DUMAGLETE CITY The Negros Oriental provincial government will receive some P5 million from the Department of Agriculture for organic farming projects in the province. Gov. George P Arnalz said the amount will be released to the province once a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is signed between him and DA re-

gional director Eduardo Lecciones.

The Sangguniang Panialawigan has already authorized the governor to sign the MOA on behalf of the province Arnaiz said he planned to buy a tractor for Tamlang Valley using P1 5 million from the DA fund, with the provincial government providing another P1 5 million since the tractor is estimated to cost P3 million. The governor said part of the DA amount would also be used to set up an organic demonstration farm at the provincia, nursery compound

Romy Amarado/PDI Visayas Bureau

Mangyan artifacts exhibit

CITY OF CA_APAN-The Mangyan Heritage Center is holding an exhibit on the culture of the indigenous peoples of Mindoro entitled "Myth and Meaning" from Jan. 3-23 at the Ayala Museum in Makati City. The exhibit is open for free from Monday to Friday (9 a.m. -6 p.m.) and Saturday-Sunday ,10 a.m.-7 p m.) Emily Lorezon-Catapang, MHC director, said this is the center's first public display of artifacts of various Mangyan groups. Pre-Hispanic ind genous scripts and old-to-recent photographs showcasing the Mangyan's way of life will also be shown. She said the exhibit will let people know that there is more to Mindoro than Puerto Galera and its other tourist attractions Marciano T. Virola Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Negros execs upbeat on economy

BACOLOD CITY—Officials were optimistic about the economy of Negros Occidental in 2006 with high mill gate sugar prices. Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma said he expected sugar prices to remain high this year because of a protected shortage in supply. But a possible sugar shortage would mean that Ledesma would have to do a balancing act of ensuring that producers enjoy prices commensurate to supply white ensuring that consumers do not suffer from high retail prices, said Presidentia Advisar for Western Visayas Rafael Coscollucia

Calamba has no market

CALAMBA CITY-This former town, which lost its huge public market in a big fire 11 years ago, has remained without one. And to residents and its former occupants, one pagging question has remained unanswered. What caused the fire and who should be responsible? The controversial fire happened at about 10.30 a.m. on Dec. 31 1994 Some 1,000 businessmen-tenants were displaced by the fire. While government authorities at

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ANG SUNOG

that time maintained that the fire was accidentally caused by the explosion of firegrackers that were on display for sale, most victims and the public had suspected that it was intentional. One vendor had fold the Incores that he lost P600,000 worth of grocedes, fruits and vegetables in that fire. Another said it was the most painful thing that ever happened in his life. Many businessmen lost millions of pesos in assets and capital

Romulo D. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Reward offered for killers

DUMAGLETE CITY—City Mayor Agustin Perdices is offering a cash reward to anybody who can provide information leading to the arrest and prosecution of persons responsible for the spate of killings in Dumaguele last year Perulces made two kinds of offer. One is for the witnesses and the other, for

Romy Amarado/POI Visayas Bureau



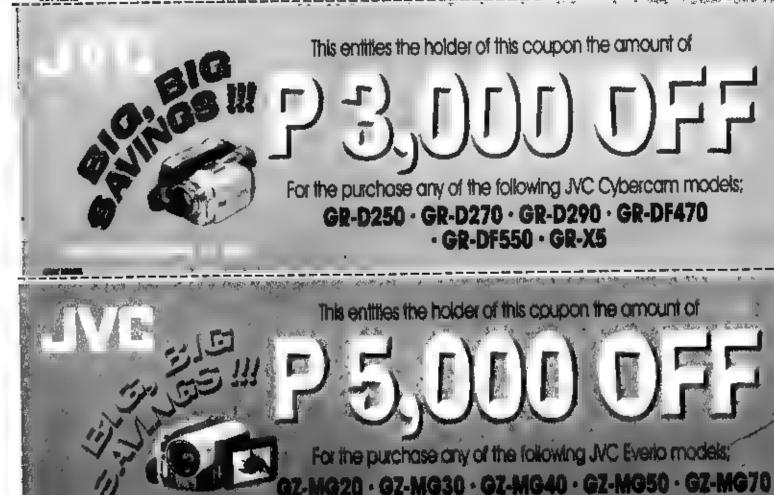
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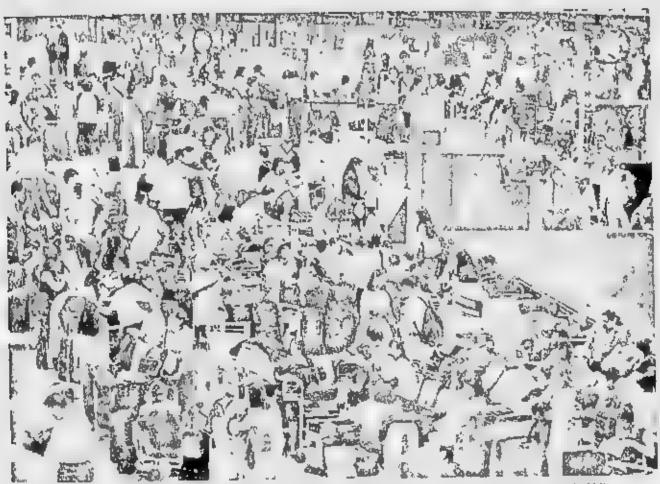
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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil



THE "SANITIZED" scheme would hopefully ensure tighter screening of incoming luggage at the crowded Ninoy Aquino International Airport according to authorities.

3 rape suspects nabbed in Las Piñas

By Luige A. del Puerto

had soived the case of a six-year-o.d girl who had been raped and killed in Las Piñas City with the arrest of three suspects on Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip, the police arrested Jeffrey Quilatan, 21, of Pulang Lupa 1, Las Piñas City; Ronald Dacrama, 26, of Bacoor, Cavite; and Erick Garin, 29, of Basa Compound, also in

Zapote, Las Piñas City.

A witness claimed that he had overheard the suspects "talk about the girl they had raped and killed," the police said.

The three men owned up to the crime during interrogation, said Supt. Josephus Angan, chief of the Las Piñas City police. The detained men had been arrested before for

drug addiction, he added.

THE POLICE YESTERDAY SAID THEY year, the body of Ericka Estardo, a pre-school student, of Barangay Zapote, Las Piñas City, was found in an abandoned house at the Doña Junta Subdivision in Pulanglupa 2. She had been reported missing the night be-

The girl had been stabbed 12 times. Initial evidence and cated that she had been raped. The police are still awaiting results of the DNA analyas being run by the National Bureau samples found at the crime scene

At a press conference in Camp Crame yesterday, one of the suspects, Ronald, admitted that he had stabbed the suspect before she was raped

"Bangag ako sa rugby (I was high on rugby). I stabbed her," he said

It was Quilatan who abused the At around 7 a.m. on Dec. 31 last child, and Garin who held her down, according to the police.

The girl's parents, Salvador and Lenny, were still in shock during the press briefing

Lenny said her daughter did not say she was going out on the night of

The couple found out that she was missing at around 8 p.m., and frantically searched for her around the

"My daughter never had a chance. of Investigation on fluids and hair. If it were up to me, I'd kill these three men," said Salvador. The victim was the second of four children.

Lenny, who was visibly distraught, said she was still in denial over the way her daughter had died

"She was just six years old. These brutes should be hanged," she said.

New Miaa policy for check in bags

By Nikko Dizon

THE MANUA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUthority (Miaa) is set to implement a "100 percent sanitized baggage" procedure in which departing passengers would not be allowed to hold onto their checked in luggage once these have passed through the initial X-ray screen-

ing.
"It's a security enhancement procedure required by the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization)," retired Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, Miaa assistant general manager for security and emergency services, said

International airlines operating at the Ninoy Aquino international Airport (Naia), however, have warned that the new system would only result in chaos and longer lines in the cramped departure areas of Terminal 1 and the Centen-

These additional procedures would only add to the chokepoints in the terminals," Santi Medrana III, vice chair of the Airline Operators Council (AOC), told reporters.

The AOC also expressed concern that the new security procedure would result in more lost bags and delayed flights.

There are more than 2,000 departing passengers during peak hour flights at Terminal 1

Under the sanitized baggage scheme, after noon, as well as on Jan. 9 and 12

the initial X-ray, passengers would turn over their bags to porters who would bring it to the check in area

Atutubo said their porters are deputized security personnel who have undergone security

The Miaa official added that some 60 porters would be deployed in Terminal 1 while another 18 would be stationed in Terminal 2.

Arutubo showed reporters a copy of ICAO Annex 17, series 2004, which he said is the Miaa's basis for the new security procedure

The ICAO regulation read: "From 1 January 2006, each Contracting State shall establish measures to ensure that originating hold baggage intended to be carried in an aircraft engaged in international civil aviation operations is screened prior to being loaded into the air-

Medrana, however, said the regulation did not state that passengers should not be allowed contact with their checked in luggage.

"I think semantics is the issue," he said. "The security measures are already in place—there's the X-ray, the pat down or body frisking, and the hand wand or detector."

Atutubo, meanwhile, urged airlines to observe the dry run of the new security procedure so that they could recommend improvements

A dry run was scheduled yesterday after

'Visits okay, but no custody for Plinky'

By Edson C. Tandoc r.

THE FORMER LOVER OF FITNESS EXPERT Plinky Recto, whom she had accused of abducting their year-old son earlier this week, said yesterday he would be keeping the boy in his care. However, Recto will be allowed to visit their son "even without going to the

She is welcome to visit our son. But the custody will remain with me," the boy's father told the Inquiren in a phone interview, Recto's former partner, a wealthy lawyer in Negros Occidental, earlier said that he took the boy from her house in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday morning, to protect him from Recto, whom he claimed needed psychiatric help. He maintained that he would raise their son himself.

But Recto's lawyer, Viriato Dupaya, said the

proposal was "totally unacceptable. What we want is custody of the child We will allow him to visit the child under strict court supervision." Dupaya also dented that Recto needed psychiatric he.p. "That is a blatant lie. Recto has no psychiatric disorder," he added.

Recto's former lover had earlier told the IN-OUIRER that he did not kidnap his son. He showed an order from the Bago City Regional Trial Court in Negros Occidental which granted him temporary custody of the one-year-old boy. In his petition for custody, the man had accused Recto of being an unfit mother, often leaving their son to the care of the maids.

But Dupaya said they would be taking legal action to get the boy back. "He has no parental authority over the child based on the Family Code because the child is illegitimate,"

4 hurt as 3 more fires hit Metro

FOUR PERSONS WERE HURT WHILE NEARLY 1:16 p.m. Ofelia Victor and fireman Senior In-100 families lost their houses as three fires hit Manila and Makati cities yesterday.

In Manila, Wilson and Estrella Sy were treated for smoke inhalation after a fire destroyed their home at 293 Lara St., Binondo, three days after another couple were killed in a fire in the same area.

SFO1 Wilson Tana said the responding firemen had to convince the Sys to come down from the fifth floor. Tana said the fire began at 8 17 p.m and destroyed the fifth floor of the seven-story Somar building. It was put out at 9 30 p.m

hour-long fire that began at 469 Dandan St at

sp. Bonifacio Carter suffered minor injuries and were taken to a nearby hospital for treat-

In Makati City, around 100 families lost their homes in a blaze that started at the house of Lina Sarmiento at 3427 Adora corner Masangkay Streets, Barangay Tejeros, a two-story structure in the middle of a slum

Before long, the blaze, which started at 6:43 p.m., spread to nearby houses mostly made of light materials. It was put out at 11.50 p.m., after 35 firetrucks were deployed In Tondo, two more were injured in an to the scene. Margaux C. Ortiz and Tarra V. Quismundo

METROBRIEFS

QC bans piracy

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has signed into law an ordinance banning the sale.



rental transfer distribution, manufacture or production of pirated, counterfeit, or fake goods, articles or services within the city. The measure aims to protect egitimate enterprises from unfair competition

posed by pirated goods,

according to Quezon City majority floor leader Arist inton. Under the ordinance, violators shall be fined P2 500 or jalled for a period of not more than six months, or both, depending on the discretion of the court. The business permits and icenses of establishments found violating the iocal anti-piracy law will also be suspended or cancelled. The measure was introduced by Counci ors Educi Lagman Jr., Ariel Inton, Restituto Malangen, Julian Coseleng, Jorge Banal and Bayani Hipol

Accident at fish port

WORKERS at a fishing dock inside the Navotas Fish Port Complex panicked when a forklift and its driver fell into the water before noon yesterday. "We were relieved when the driver surfaced with minor injuries after a few minutes," said Augusto Caideron, repair superintendent of the Frabeile Fishing Corp. Renato Tobles suffered only bruises but the locklift would have to undergo major repairs, Calderon added. He said Tobias may have miscalculated while maneuvering the forklift because of the dock's narrow perimeter Nancy C. Carvajai

Citywide ID system

IF PLANS push through, residents in Marikina City can look forward to having a Citizens identifi-

cation Card which they can use in their transactions with the government. "We are now holding consultations with officials and people concerned." City Councilor Donn Pavis told the in-DUIRER yesterday. He said that if things go as planned, the printing of the Citizens' ID may start this year. Favis added that the ID card, an off shoot of a city ordinance on a computerized registration system for residents approved in 2001, would speed up government transactions. "This would result in paperless transactions. All the residents have to do is bring their Citizens' Card," he said. Holders will also be given privileges such



as discounts on prompt tax payments. Police records will also be incorporated into the database, which will be easily accessed using the card This will help us in our peace and order cam-

paign. Violations of city ordinances can be moni-Edzon C. Tandoc Jr. tored." Favis sald.

Free car wash for taxpayers

PAY your real estate taxes early and get a discount. Not only that, we'll also wash your car for free. The city governments of Marikina and Mandatayong have dangled this tempting offer to sacourage taxpayers in their areas to heat the Jan 31 deadline for the payment of real property tax and business permits. In Marikina City, those who pay their real property tax in full for the year before the deadline will get a 20 percent discount. Those who pay their taxes for the first quarter before Jan. 31, on the other hand, will be entitled to a 10 percent discount. Twenty tellers have been assigned to wait on texpayers every weekday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with no lunch breaks. Payments will be accepted even on Salurdays, from 8 Edwon C. Tandoc Jr.





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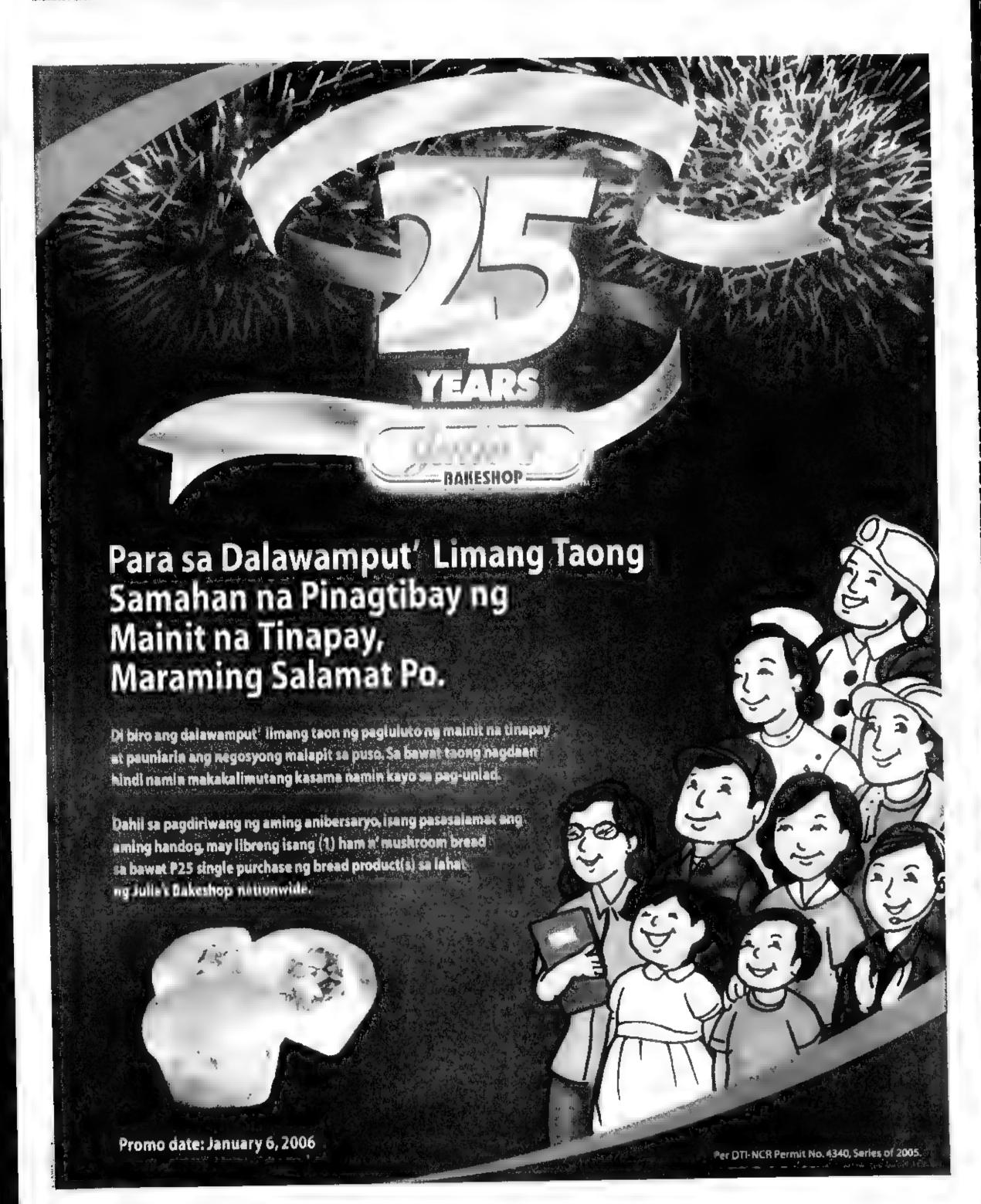


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Teetering Tigers fight for survival vs Beermen

THE SITUATION IS DO-OR-DIE for Coca-Cola.

The San Miguel Beermen, though, would rather gnore the luxury of a twice-to-beat edge and face the back-to-the wall Tigers head-on in their survival playoff in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference tonight at the Cuneta Astrodome.

As ninth and last-placer in the classification round, the Tigers have no other recourse but to nurole the eighth-seeded Beermen twice to advance to a best-of-three duel with the Air21 Express in the wildcard phase.

We'd forgotten about Christmas and worked hard," said Čoca-Cola coach Binky Favis. "We still have a chance and we're going all out for it."

A defeat would send Coca-Cola to the cellar for the second straight conference, a franchise worst after Tigers head coach Chot Reyes took over the national team early last year.

"We don't want to think about the twice-to-beat

GAMETODAY (Canela Astrodome) 7 p.m.--Coca-Cola va San Miguel Beer

Miguel Beer coach Jong Ulchico, whose Beermen dropped their last two games with import Kevin Freeman, "We'll play this

one as if there's no more tomorrow." Returning for the Beermen is Kwan Johnson, who was reactivated from the injury list. Johnson took credit for San Migue,'s five-game winning streak late in the classification round

Olsen Racela, Danny Ildefonso, Dondon Hontiveros, Nic Belasco, Dorian Peña and Danny Seigle are seeking a return trip to the Finals after the Beermen captured the 2004-2005 Fiesta Conference title.

The road, however, will be long and bumpy as Uichico and the Beermen-they need to win 14 games from the playoffs to the best-of-seven reach. championship to keep the crown.

The defending champions won only six of their 16 games in the classification phase after starting

advantage," said San the conference at 1.8. Most of the Beermen's losses were decided by five points or less.

"If only we had been lucky and won two out of those eight iosses, we could have been in the top four," said Uichico. "Now, we're just making the most out of what we have. It's a long shot, but my players still have pride in themselves."

The Tigers staggered out of the classification round with three straight setbacks, the last against the Red Bull Barako sans Omar Thomas.

Thomas was fined P150,000 and served a onegame suspension for causing an ugly cut on Dennis Espino's head that took at least seven stitches to close.

Now, the onus is on Ali Peek, Rafi Reavis, John Arigo, Poch Juinio, rookie Dennis Miranda and Thomas who all need to be on their toes to keep the Beerman at bay and the wildcard slot within June Navarro

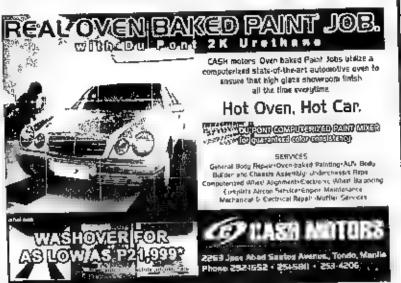
GAB strips Catubay of RP flyweight crown A18

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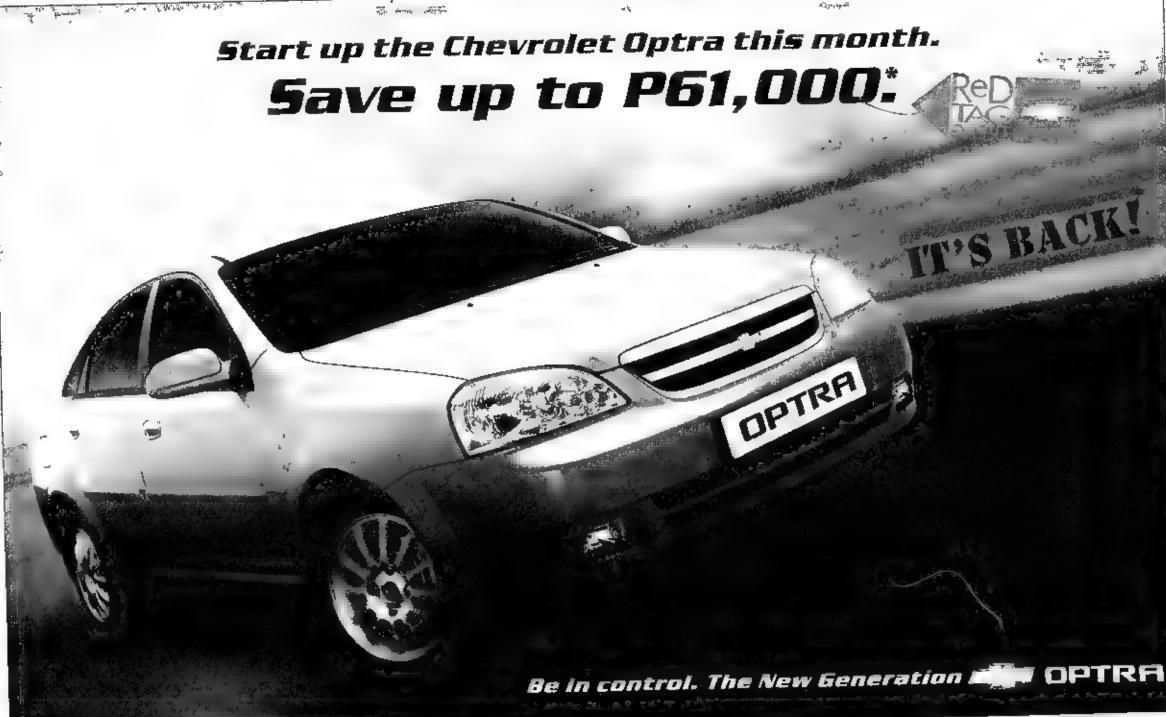
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No Pacquiao lapses this time, says Roach Hernandez



MANNY Pacquiao works out at the Wild Card Gym. A

FILIPINO SUPERSTAR MANNY PACQUIAO HAS DEscribed himself "in tremendous shape" while sparring against much bigger weiterweight fighters at the Wild Card Boxing Gym in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao, who continues his hard training for the Jan. 21 mega-remetch with Erik "El Terrible" Morales, refused to divulge details of his buildup, aithough he said there will be no excuses after the fight this time.

"It was my first time to use those (Winning) gloves and it was a distraction," Pacquiso told the boxing website Fightnews. "I'm happy to use the Reyes gloves this time."

The Filipino hero also said the cut he sustained after an accidental headbutt in his first encounter with Morales also bothered hum.

"It was a big distraction to me," he said. "I couldn't see out of my right eye, so when he came to the right side, I couldn't see him."

In a teleconference from his Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles yesterday, trainer Freddie Roach saud everything is

on schedule for Pacquiao.

"He's got some great sparring partners," Roach said. "Manny wants this fight badly and I can't wait for it to

Roach admitted there were some tactical lapses during the first fight, which Morales won by unanimous decision, adding they plan to avoid the same mistakes again.

"I don't think we fought a great fight the first time," the American trainer said. "Manny was overanxious and a little left-hand hungry.

"There are definitely adjustments that can be made to fight a much better fight this time. We're also studying the tapes of Morales' loss to (Zahar) Raheem. He had trouble with Raheem's speed and Manny has that type of speed. We're going to take advantage of that if we can."

Raheem, a former US Olympian, beat Morales last September in the same card in Los Angeles that saw Pacquiao stop Mexican veteran Hector Velasquez in the sixth Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

PSA jockey: of the year

JONATHAN HERNANDEZ WON THE PSA (Philipine Sportswriters Association) Jockey of the Year award, beating two other big names in a close race for the prestigious honor.

In clinching his first PSA award in a career that began in 1998, the 26-year-old Hernandez, "IB" to friends and the betting public, made it to the distinguished roster of major awardees to be feted by the sportswriting fraternity on Jan. 14 at the Mamila Pavilion.

Hernandez, a native of Sta. Ana, Manila, registered the highest winning percentage and finished first in the number of stakes races won while emerging a close second in money winnings to beat Patti Dilema and Jesse B. Guce.

A product of the Philippine Jockeys Academy, Hernandez won 225 times in 838 rides for a leading 26.8 average, totalled a second-best P53,519,009 in money winnings and triumphed in 15 stakes races on board seven horses, including Cover Girl (five times) and Juggernaut (thrice)

Three-way fight

Dilema, a many-time PSA awardee, wound up first in money winnings (P58,964,454.66), but could only deliver 249 times in 1,147 rides for a 21.7 percent average, to the top three among leading stakes performers.

Guce, son of the illustrious Jesus Guce, finished third in money winnings (P45,338,052.91) and normed 22.9 on 197 victories in 858 rides as he made the fight for the award a three-way affair up to the last three months of 2005.

Twenty-two others are on the roster of major awardees to be honored along with the other big achievers in the rites sponsored by Red Bull, with San Miguel Corp., Philippine Sports Commission and Manila Mayor Lito Anenza as supporters.

Leading the honor roll is Team Philippines, recipient of the Athlete of the Year award for its historic overall victory in the last 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Seventeen personalities and entities will be cited for their contributions in making 2005 a big year for local sports while the rest of Filipino gold medalists in the SEA Games will receive special citations from the 46-year-old association.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the man credited for the suc-cessful SEAG staging, will be the guest of honor.



FEDERICO "MAGNIFICO" CATUBAY LOST HIS bid for the OPBF title recently. The other day, he lost his national crown as well.

For failing to defend his RP flyweight title a year after acquiring it, the Games and Amusements Board stripped Catubay of the crown.

It was a big blow for Carubay, who only recently blew his crack at the OPBF flyweight title with a close decision loss to champion Noriyuld Komatsu of Japan

The GAB also turned down a request by Carubay's manager, Sammy "Don King" Gelko-ani, to have the boxer included in an elimination

fight for the vacant title on Jan. 15. Carubay won the ritle via a technical knockout

win over veteran Jerry Pahayahay in Cagayan de Oro on Jan. 3, 2005.

In his letter denying an earlier request by Gello-ani to reschedule Carubay's title defense to Jan. 15, GAB chair Eric Buhain cited Article 23 of the GAB rules which says the period for defending a tittle should "not exceed one year from the date of acquiring or successfully defending such Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor



For the fourth time in the last five years, the Filipino pool icon emerged the top earner among the world's billiards players with accumulated earnings of \$279,169 (about P14.8 million) for 2005.

The 51-year-old Reyes' purse was boosted by his biggest ever paycheck of \$200,000, his prize for beating defending champion Mike Sigel of the United States in the finals of the 2005 International Pool Tour (IPT) King of the Hill 8-Ball Shoot Out last Dec. 4 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida

Reyes, already enshrined in the billiards Hall of Fame, was joined by compatriots Marlon Manalo, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Santos Sambajon in the top 10 of the 2005 Player Money List released by "Az Billiards.com" yesterday.
His eyesight improved by laser surgery early

last year, Reyes also snared the Derby City Classic, 9-Ball and Master of the Table titles and topped the Japan Open and a San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour leg to duplicate his domination of the billiards circuit in 2001, 2002 and 2004. Reyes wound up third nehest in 2003.

With the \$100,000 prize for ruling the 2005 Texas Hol Em Bilhards last Dec. 12, Manalo wound up third behind Sigel (\$250,000) with total winnings of \$199,500.

\$140,272 following a third place finish in the IPT finals event that nemed him \$70,000 last December.

The US-based Sambajon, a native of Macalelon, Quezon, pocketed \$89,669, including a \$73,500 bonanza for topping the 2005 Skins Bilhard Championships last October in Atlantic City,

Rounding out the top 10 are No.5 Allison Fisher of the US (\$111,200), No.6 and reigning World 9-Ball champion Wu Chia-ching of Chinese-Taiper (\$109,500.); No.7 Loree Jon Jones of the US (\$105,500); No. 8 Johnny Archer of the US (\$100,104) and No.9 Thorsten Hohmann of Germany (\$96,635)

Former world pool champion Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, a triple-gold medalist in the 2005 Manila Southeast Asian Games, earned \$80,824, bolstered by his US Open victory, worth \$40,000, over fellow Filipino Jose "Amang" Parica last September in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Pagulayan, a native of Cabagan, Isabela, also took the top purse of \$10,000 by ruling the SML Entertainment 9-Ball Championships last April in Calgary, Canada.

Sigel bested compatriot Loree Jon Jones in the finals of the IPT World 8-Ball Championships to bring home \$150,000 last August in Las Vegas,



was the little contract with the partition of the partiti Marion Bernardino, contributor TOP OF POOL TOTEM POLE: Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Jennifer passes up World Cup stint

By Jong Arcano

JENNIFER ROSALES IS PASSING UP THE chance to represent the country in the ladies World Cup of Golf.

And a lot of people are asking why. While Swede superstar Annika Sorenstam and American hotshot Paula Creamer are heading to Sun City, South Africa, to play for their respective flags in the Jan. 20-22 event, J-Ro has given up her slot and opted to focus on her training in

Manila for the coming LPGA season. The World Cup will be played at the Gary Player Country Caub course, also the venue of the Million Dollar Golf Challenge.

The original Philippune team was made up of second place tie with Korea equalled the best per-Rosales and Ana Larranera, a European Tour player born to a Spanish father and a Pilipino mom But when Rosales begged off, Larraneta also

The official World Cup website, though, still

usis the Rosales-Larraneta pair as RP entries. The country's bid in the event that offers \$1 million will now be carried by Dorothy Delasin and Ria Denise Quiazon, who are both Fil-Ams. Delasin is an LPGA Tour regular while Quiazon

plays on satelllite events in the US. Detasin and Rosales almost won the inaugural World Cup last year, also in South Africa, losing by two strokes to eventual champion Japan. The

formance by an RP duo in the World Cup, 18 years after Ben Arda and Rudy Labares finished second in the men's World Cup at Wack Wack. Delasin and Rosales each went home with

the reach for all there !

P3.5 million for the runner-up finish.

Rosales' mother, Lourdes, told the Inquiren that Jennifer finds the long trip to South Africa "physically taxing." She saud her daughter is busy preparing for her defense of the SBS Open, the opening leg of the LPGA Tour, on Feb. 16-18.

"Jenny wants to be well-prepared for the SBS," Ms Rosales said

Sagas and sages

Jennifer is now in training at the Manila Southwoods with her swing coach Bong Lopez.

843-1748 or 816-6750.

ROSALES

Santos, Batislaon top darts classic ALLAN Santos of Et Tusuquero and Hector Battstaon of Makall anded 2005 with a big bang by winning the Huling Hirit and Pearl Darts Classic doubles tournament held recently at the Pearl Bitllard and Bar in Paraflaque City. Sentos and Batislaon swept the

SPORTSWATCH

needed a deciding game to repulse the duo of Most Dizon (LM Darters) and Toos Seduco (Maketi) in the finals.

elimination round, and then topped the winners' bracket but

65 fights in Pasay derby today SDCTY-FIVE quality fights are schaduled in a P300,000 4-cock derby today at the Pasay City Cockpit. The venue's first offering for the 2006 cook season, sponsored exclusively by Sagupaan Complexor 2000, is hosted by pit manager Butchoy Olano and Lito Roque of the like Mae Group. The search for the Pasay Cockplt Cockers Association (PCCA) Cocker of the Year starts next Friday via a special 4-cock derby, For Inquiries, call 843-1890,



TANGKAD SAGAD CAGING: Multitled San Beda Red Cubs coach and tournament director Edmundo Badolato (seated, right) and interMed president Fernando V. Segovia (left) formalize the staging of the Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament for players 12 years old and younger recently. Witnessing the affair were Tom Meneses, Cherifer product manager, and Bernard Ocampo, organizer of the five-on-five competition

By Percy D. Della

SPORTS PANS STILL IN A HYPNOTIC trance following the country's convincing campaign in the Southeast Asian Games will get a fresh dose of ZZZs on Jan. 14.

That's when the Philippine Sportswriters Association hands out its Athlete of the Year award to the entire Philippine team victorious in the recent regional sports wars.

The 23rd edition of the SEA Games was a saga. A saga must have a hero and the hero of this one was the 700strong Team Philippines that reaped 113 gold medals.

The team's haul was worth the overall title in the blenmal meet-a triumph that has sent fans to dreamland—to a momentary sports Camelot peopled by heroes and demigods.

It's a new Eden that's sure to be irrecoverable by the time the Asian Games come around, or earlier. Meantime, the national government has suddenly become well stocked not with students but sages of sports.

Like characters sent up from central casting, these sudden and born-again sports scholars have come to play cameos, alas, even

feature roles for our COMMENTARY athletes. The idea is obvious-to wrap themselves up in civic pride while the population at large is influenced by millions of sports

From a few solons, there are now at least 120 fellows in Congress who have signed a resolution upping the budget for sports from a pairry sum to P250 million a year.

aficionados.

A southern congressman who has

acted with stateliness for sports says the budget for the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) is a "done deal." He has confidently passed the ball to senators of the realm.

The chair of the PSC has joined in the fun, finding new gumption to up the ante for athletes and coacheswith the promise of free education for

those in the national pool. The chair said a

Philippine Institute of Sports (what an acronym) will help instill virtues that could lead to excellence for players and their mentors.

Not to be outdone, a former PSC chair wants the revival of a master plan for sports. The blueprint focuses on a short-term formula to achieve a loftier goal—the country's first Olympic gold.

There seems to be a problem of continuity in the government's sports priorities. The master plan spoused by this former PSC honcho was mothballed after he was replaced in 1998. Can't blame the sports fans for re-

fusing to return from dreamland. It's simply because most stewards of sports appear to refuse waking up from Lalaland, either.

Sports note: Good luck to two prominent G-men who are said to be contemplating on leading two of the better national sports associations. Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Al Fernandez and Surigao Rep. Butch Pichay are reportedly interested in heading the NSAs for athletics and chess, respectively. These no-nonsense gents are capable of walking up the country's sports leadership from a seeming stupor.

Philsoc may sell assets to pay off debts

By Musong R. Castillo

BEFORE DISSOLVING, THE PHILIPPINE SOUTHeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philisoc) will sell the assets and equipment it purchased for the compention to help pay off debts amounting to about P60 million.

Secretary general Steve Hontiveros yesterday told the INCLINER that this will be discussed by the executive committee of the Philsoc in the next few

the committee since the Games ended on Dec. 5. "It's one of the things that our president (Jose "Peping" Cojuangco) said we can do to settle our

obligations," Hontiveros said, The sale is expected to leave national athletes without world-class equipment to use to prepare for

the Aslan Games in Doha, Qatar in December Hontiveros said the Philsoc may offer the equipment to the Philippine Sports Commission first and

days to pay several creditors who have been after then to philantrophists, who, hopefully, would donate them to various National Sports Associations.

"The Philsoc really did not have money to begin with," Hontiveros, also the national bowling head, added. "We are still trying to make ends meet." The PSC had said that it will help the Philsoc set-

the some of its obligations, like outstanding hotel and food bills in venues in Bacolod and Cebu.

Philsoc fell short of meeting its projected P1 billion budget to host the Games.

Caddie benefits from Tiger's absence, rules Super Saloon

KAPALUA, Hawaii-AT LEAST ONE PERSON Williams was free to drive. could not have been more thrilled that Tiger Woods skipped the Mercedes Championships

Steve Williams, a race car driver in New Zealand when he's not toting the bag for the world's No. 1 player, won the New Zealand Super Saloon Championship this week with a dramatic rally that would have made his boss proud.

"It's the No. 1 event in racing in New Zealand," Wilhams said from his home in Auckland. "As I told Tiger, now I know how he feels when he wins the Masters."

Williams, who races stock cars on dirt tracks, had not been able to compete in the Super Saloon because it's the same week as the seasonopening Mercedes Champsonships on the PGA Tour. But when Woods decided not to play at Kapalua because he wanted a long break,

It was held Monday and Tuesday at Baypark in Tauranga, and Williams thought he was done after a collision sent his car airborne and on top of another car during the first of two qualifying heats.

"That realistically ended my chances," he said. "I started the second heat in the back of the grid and had to finish first or second to get mto the finals. I made it past the second car in the last 50 feet. The best driving of my life."

After two more qualifying runs Tuesday for starting positions, Williams was on the inside of the front row. He took the lead on the third of 25 laps and led the rest of the way.

"I wouldn't have been able to compete if Tiger played in the Mercedes," Williams said. "To get in the way I did, then have the best drive of my speedway career, it was awasome." AP



WOODS (back to carnera) celebrates with Williams after winning the 2005 Masters.

Singh seeks to steal march on absentees

KAPALUA, HAWAII-WORLD NO. 2 Vijay Singh heads the field for the independent contractors, you can't PGA Tour season-opening Mercedes Championships here this week, seeking to steal a march on a host of high-profile absentees that includes Tiger Wood.

Woods, Phil Mickelson and South African Retief Goosen are shapping the season opener, while South African Ernie Els isn't eligible for the winners only event.

That leaves Singh heading a 28-man field that also includes Sergio Garcia and Jim Furyk

"I just don't understand," Fred Funk said of the missing in action. "It's such a reward for having a good year last year. Mercedes is putting up a lot of money and they want to see your marquee guys, it would make a sponsor say why am I doing this?

"The way our bylaws are, we're make a guy go anywhere but the problem is even more magnified because it's such a small field. It hurts when you have 32 or 33 guys and four don't show up."

Mark Calcavecchia admitted he stood to gain by the no shows

"I text-messaged Tiger and said 'no Hawaii for you, more cash for me. Thanks for not playing," Calcavecchia said. "It's good for me, bad for the tournament. I don't have to beat Tiger, Phil, Restef or Padraig (Harrington, another absentee). I wish they were here though, and I think they should be here. It's bad for the tournament. They should have to play."

Calcavecchia also questioned why the big boys couldn't play



the Cleveland Cavaliers over the Milwaukee Bucks, 91-84, in the NBA on Wednesday. James added 11 rebounds and 11 assists

for his sixth career triple double

"LeBron continues to amaze me," first-year coach Mike Brown said. "He got a triple-double tonight which was awesome. It's easy to take him for granted when he does because it just seems so natural for him."

Donyell Marshall scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds off the bench to help the Cavaliers snap a seven-game losing streak in Milwaukee.

Michael Redd led the Bucks with 28 points and Bobby Simmons added 18. Jamaal Magloire had 13 points and 12 rebounds. However, the Bucks bench went scoreless

The last time the Bucks' bench was scoreless was Nov. 27, 1970 against the New York Knicks.

At Toronto, rookie Charlie Villanueva scored 24 points and Toronto shot a franchise record 63 percent from the field in a 121-97 rout of Orlando. The Raptors (10-22) own the third-worst

record in the NBA, but tied a season-high in points and outrebounded the Magic 34-21

Mike James added 17 points and seven assists for the Raptors, who have won four in a

active list before game because of a strained groin.

At Boston, Paul Pierce had 31 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds and Ricky Davis added 23 points to help Boston beat Charlotte, 109-106.

Onen Greene's drawing layup with 57 5 seconds left in the fourth quarter broke a 102-102 tie and gave the Celtics the lead for good Bernard Robinson missed a potential gametying 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Boston shot 57 percent from the field to win for just the second time in six games following a 1-4 road road trip. The Celtics have won three straight at home.

Primoz Brezec had 19 points and Brevin Knight added 18 points and 12 assists for the Bobcats, who scored 35 points off turnovers.

At Oklahoma City, Desmond Mason scored 24 points and New Orleans overcame Owyane Wade's second career triple-double for a 107-92 win against Miami.



Toronto 121, Orlando 97; Boston 109, Charlotte 106; Cleveland 91, Milwaukse 84; Minnesota 91, Dallas 78; N.D./ Oktahoma City 107, Miami 92.



IVERSON sits on the bench during the fourth quarter of their game against the Suns.

Hingis fights way into semis of Aussie hardcourt tourney

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA-MARTINA Hingis fought her way into the semifinals of the Australian women's hardcourt tournament Thursday, defeating Spain's Nuria Llagostera Vives in three sets.

Korver in their NBA game in Phoenix, Arizona.

PHOENIX Suns' James Jones (22) scores off Philadelphia 76ers' Kyle

making her comeback to professional tennis at the Gold Coast tournament after retiring due to injury three years ago, beat Llagostera Vives 6-2, 4-6, 6-O to advance to the final four.

Hings, a five-time Grand Slam champion, took just over 30 minutes to claim the first set but the Spaniard staged a determined performance to take the second.

Llagostera Vives crumbled in the The former world No. 1, who is decider, making too many unforced errors to stop the Hingis advance.

The 25-year-old Swiss champion will now play either her doubles partner Tatiana Golovin of France or Italy's Flavia Pennetta in the semi-final.

World No. 20 Dinara Safina will meet either defending champion Patty Schnyder or Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic in the semi-finals after bearing Spaniard Anabel Medina Garrigues 6-1, 6-3 earlier Thursday

Hingis, who reured in 2002 with heel, foot and mide injuries, has shown gathering form since she oust ed Venezuela's Maria Vento-Kabchi in the first round on Monday.



HINGIS revs up for the Australian Open. nurses

Iverson on playing for US five

PHOENIX-NBA STAR ALLEN IVERSON WANTS to be a part of the US baskerball team for the 2006 world championships and 2008 Olympics, USA Baskethall managing director Jerry Colangelo said.

"He wants to win a gold medal," said Colangelo, the Phoenix chair and CEO, after meeting Iverson on Wednesday. "He said that very clearly. He said if asked, he would be honored."

Colangelo, solely in charge of developing the pool of players invited to the team's training camp, plans to meet this week with Shaquille O'Neal, Dwyane Wade and Tim Duncan.

lverson was co-captain and the leading scorer on the US team that won the bronze medal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

"I want to play," Iverson said after playing for Philadelphia against Phoenix on Wednesday. "Obviously, we didn't get it done the first time I was a part of that team. If God blesses me with another opportunity to try it, it would be an honor I would have a second shot at fulfilling one of my goals."

Colangelo, named head of USA Baskerball after the team's poor performances at the 2002 worlds and 2004 Olympics, has made it clear that the US team would not be a collection of superstars hastily put together

Instead, he wants a group, including role players, that would make a three-year commitment to participate in the camps and form a cohesive team for the worlds this year in Japan and the Olympics in Beijing

Colangelo said he planned to announce the first batch of players for the camp by the NBA's All-Star break in mid-February.

Federer struggles past unorthodox player

DOHA-ROGER FEDERER SHOWED rare glimpses of irritation as he struggled to get past Fabrice Santoro, perhaps the tour's most unorthodox player, in the second round of the Qatar Open here on Wednesday.

The world champion with the glassfibre temperament found the Frenchman's unique double-handed style and crafty mix of tactics so effective that he never once broke serve throughout a 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/5) success.

Federer's skullful power was often still awesome, but he twice missed kills from inside the service line and once appeared to tell some of the crowd to be quiet.

There were also moments of unfamiliar frowning amidst the characteristic skill and grace although afterwards FEDERER returns to France's Santoro.



Federer demed that the mental battle first set tie-break with something to had been a problem.

"The last thing I want to do is get frustrated and I never do," Federer

"Maybe I used to when I wasn't up to it, but now I have proved myself so much that there is never a sense of frustration against anyone, no matter how big their serve, how good they are the net, or how good they are at mixing up their games, so that is a big advantage to have in my game."

Santoro's entertaining magic came from his ability to stroke the ball with shee on both wings, and suddenly to appear in unexpected positions to volley.

However, Pederer was never in trouble on his own delivery, and took the ment's eight seeds to go out.

spare, by seven point to two.

But he had more difficulty in the second set tie-break, going a mini-break down and then seeing Santoro save two match points and bring the scoring back with serve again at 5-6.

Federer then came up with a superb topspin return to the feet, making Santoro half-volley short, opening up the court for a backhand drive which the 33-year-old former champion could not contain.

Federer next plays Marcos Baghdatis, the first player from Cyprus ever to make the main tour, who scored a career-best win against Feliciano Lopez, the eighthseeded Spaniard winning 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

Lopez was the fifth of the courna-

LOS ANGELES-VINCE YOUNG scampered eight yards for a

touchdown with 19 seconds left, lifting second-ranked Texas to a 41-38 win over USC to give the Longhorns their first national championship since 1970.

USC (12-1) had a 34-game winning streak snapped and a bid for history thwarted. The Trojans were aiming for an unprecedented third straight national title.

place," said USC coach Pete Carroll, whose team gained 574 yards but surrendered 556.

Young was unable to bring the Heisman Trophy back to Austin but brought back a much bigger prize by completing 30-of-40 passes for 267 yards and rushing 20 times for

200 yards and three touchdowns. He became the first player in

quarterback ran all over the yards and rush for 1,000 in the

Texas (13-0) trailed, 38-26, after a 22-yard touchdown pass from 2004 Heisman winner Mart Lemant to Dwayne Jamett with 6:42 remaining.

But Young scored on a 17-yard run with 4:03 left to pell Texas within five points.

The Longhorns' defense came up with a huge stop, holding bruising

"We couldn't stop them and the NCAA history to pass for 2,500 Trojans tailback LenDale White to just one yard on 4th-and-2 at the Texas 45 with 2:09 left.

On 3rd-and-12, Young threw a seven-yard pass to Quan Cosby and USC safety Darnell Burg was whistled for a facemask penalty, giving Texas a first down.

Young marched Texas inside the 10 but threw an incompletion over the middle, setting up 4thand-5 from the 8.



TEXAS Longhorns quarterback Vince Young kisses the national championship trophy at the 92nd Rose Bowl game in Pasadena. MITTERS



No increase in rentals of PSC facilities yet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DESPITE ITS NEED FOR MORE income due to a slashed budget, the Philippine Sports Commission is in no hurry to increase the rentals of the facilities inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and the PhilSports in Pastg City.

Executive director Guillermo lroy yesterday said the agency is still reviewing the rental rates for the facilities which underwent massive renovation for the recent 23rd Southeast Asian

lroy, however, said there is still no order yet to implement the increase despite the fact that the rates have not been adjusted over the past five years.

"Of course, we need supplemental income and these facilities must be self-sustaining," said lroy. "But we are still reviewing how to go about adjusting the rates."

The PSC rents out the track and field stadium, Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis courts,



A WORKER applies the final coat of paint to the imported track of the decades-old Rizal Memorial stadium, one of the PSC-owned facilities used during the SEA Games.

badminton courts, the Rizal Col-other organizations like the est I know," said Iroy. "These are iseum and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium inside the RMSC. The Philisports arena, swimming pool as well as the track stadium are also available for rentals.

Iroy said a 50-percent discount is given to schools and the whole day, which is the low-

UAAP and the NGAA. The PSC charges full rentals only on private corporations or individuals like the PBA and the PBL.

Right now, you can use the swimming pool for only P30 for

public faculties that used to be

The PSC is counting on the House resolution filed by Rep. Monico Puentevella to raise the agency's budget from P26 mil-

Students cage meeting for wild card up

the wild card berth of the National Students Baskerball Championships are invited to attend a 3 p.m. meeting tomorrow to be conducted by officers of the Philippine Basketball Federation at the Philippine Olympic Committee office on Vito Cruz, Manila.

The meeting, to be presided by PBF president Mauricio Martelino and attended by vice president Nic Jorge and incorporator Joey Romansanta, will discuss the mechan-

division. The tournament proper locks off in the third week of February.

"This is the first major undertaking of the PBF and we want this to be completed before the end of the school year," said Martenno.

Metro Manila has three seeded teams in the tournament-one each from the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines, the National Colleges Athletic Associ-

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN CAPTURING ics of play for the wild card in the conegrate auton and the Coneges and Universities Sports Athletic Association.

The PBF has divided the national membership into nine basketball regions-Luzon A (north Luzon), Luzon B (central) Metro Manila, Luzon C (south), Luzon D (Bicol), Visayas A (west) Visayas B (east) Mindanao A (west) and Mindanao B (east).

This year's championships involve two brackets each in high school and college

Regaining RP's lost glory

BRISTLING WITH RENEWED ENTHUST-ASM following the country's overwhelming victory in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games, Filipino sports leaders are taking steps to revitalize the national sports program in their quest for future sporting glory.

"Our immediate plan this year is to open the first ever Philippine Institute of Sports," said Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez in an interview, adding that national athletes and their coaches will be given educational scholarships at the sports institute located at the Philisports Complex (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City. The pioneering program will be launched on Feb. 14.

The initial phase of the free education program will cover short courses and lectures. The second phase in 2007 will offer two-year and four-year degree courses on physical education and sports sciences.

The athletes and coaches' education will mark the start of very big things for Philippine sports."

The PSC chair had earlier announced the agency's main goals in the next three years, namely, to win five to 10 gold medals in this year's Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, this December; at least 75 golds in the 2007 SEA Games in Thatland, and the first Olympic gold medal in Bening in 2008.

As one can see, the quest for glory is not lost on our sports leaders. They are starting the new year on a bright note with high hopes that the Philippines will rise again above the ordinary and regain its lost stature as a dominant force in Asian sports and a respected name in the world Olympics as well.

In the distant past, the Philippines was a country to reckon with in the sporting arena. Four times out of 10, Filipino athletes reigned supreme in the Far Eastern Games, Asia's version of the Olympics, dominating the triangular meet among China, Japan and the Philippines from 1913 up to 1934.

During the meet's opening in 1913, host Philippines won the general championship by gamering a commanding 141 points. The Filipinos won by a huge margin in arhierics with 65 points as against



China's 40 and Japan's 11.

The Philippines also won in aquatic sports, basketball, football, tennis and the exhibition sports of cycling and volleyball. The only event that eluded the Filipmos was baseball, which was won by

China ruled the second edition of the FE Games which it hosted in Shanghai in 1915 while Japan won the overall title of the third staging of the games which it hosted in Tokyo in 1917. The Philippines regained the championship in Manila in 1919 and scored an upset of sorts when it defeated host China in 1921 for the overall title, scoring heavily in athletics, swimming, tennis and baseball.

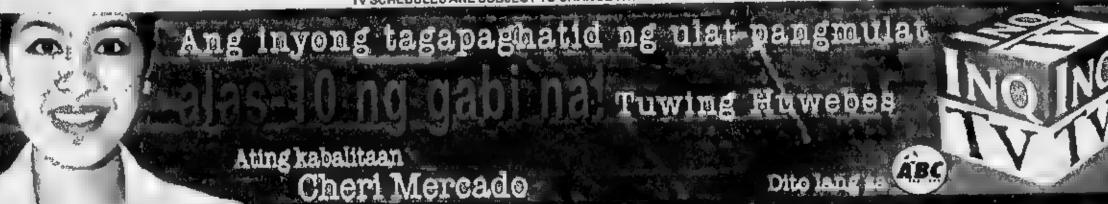
However, it was the year when the Filipmos lost the basketball crown (for the first and only time in the history of the Games), bowing to the Chinese due to bad officiating Japan caught up with the Philippines and swept athletics, swimming and tenns at the 6th FE Games in Osaka in 1923

The Filipmos regained the championship in athletics and won in basketball, volleyball and baseball during the 7th FE Games in Manila in 1925 although it lost in aquatic sports and tennis. That was the last good year for the Philippines as Japan became the region's most powerful sporting nation until the last FE Games in

China and Japan hosted the eighth and ninth editions of the FE Games in 1927 and 1930, respectively, while the Philippines staged the 10th and last in 1934 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Com-

In the final staging of the games, the Filipinos won only the basketball, termis and baseball titles, while the Japanese topped five sports disciplines, including athletics, which it won for the third straight time.





E-mail: pr_astartainment@inquirer.com.p

Letter from Steven, booklet from Tom, card from Eva

ANGELES-TWAS two nights before Christ-Imas, when all through our house, not a creature was stirring, except my wife.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter. My dogs Tanya and Jasmine started to bark louder. "Who could it be at half past midnight?" asked my wife. She sprang to the door to see what was the matter. When, what to her wonder ng eyes should appear, a messenger in a white shirt who had just dropped a

She picked up the envelope and gave

ONLY IN HOL-LYWOOD

know—it was not a letter from St. Nick but from

"Dear Ruben," it said

Steven Spielbergi

down for a long winter's nap). I tore

open the envelope and whaddya

Ruben V. Nepales

bers of the HFPA (Hollywood Foreign Press Association) for acknowledging 'Munich' with nominations for its screenplay as well as my contributions as director. We are all proud of the film ... I look forward to seeing all of you at the Golden Globes January it to me-in my cap (I had just settled

"Sincerely," Steven closed and dashed his signature

"I am extremely grateful to the mem-That time of year

> It was the time of year when I received cards and notes from nominees or from stars who just wanted to extend holiday greetings. The parcels don't normally come past midnight. They are usually delivered before bedtime by special messenger, FedEx, DHL, UPS and good old regular mail.

Tom Cruise's gift was a booklet titled

LETTER A2-2

ROUNDUP

Best soap

GMA 7's HIT fantaserye, "Encantadia," was recently proclaimed Soap Opera in the 3rd Annual Gawad Amerika Awards at the Cultural Pavilion of the Celebrity Center in HoLywood.

Sunshine Dizon won Best Actress for her role as Pirena in the hit series. Former actor, Sen. Lito Lapid, received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gawad Amerika is a group of US-based Filipino journalists.

Denied!

THE MOVIE and Television Review Classification Board has denied an appeal filed by the Cab.e Philippine Television Association Inc. on behalf of a cable TV channel earlier slapped with a one-month suspension for airing "programs not fit for pub-Le viewing "

memorandum dated Jan. 3, MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia said TVE Channel "failed to properly monitor its program broadcast. . and should be suspended "

The Board earlier reprimanded cable providers Destiny and Sky for airing "sex scenes" on TVE in the program "Dias de Cine."

TVE is aired on Sky's Ch 76 and Desnny's Ch 81

"Idol" advice

HOW does an 18year-old "American Idol" star stay fresh and pretty while traveling to seven countries in seven days to entertain the troops?

Diana DeGarmo says you sleep and eat on schedule and it helps to bring mong your mom.

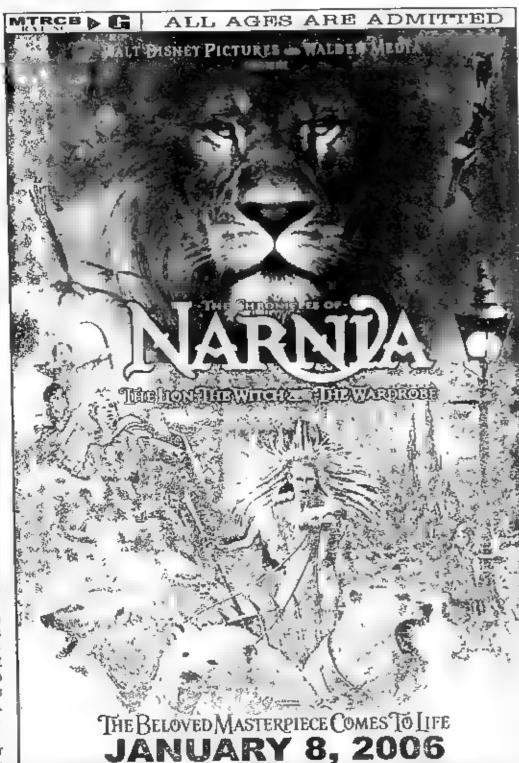
"Some people might call me a party-pooper," she told The Associated Press Tuesday aboard a military aircraft en route to Germany. "But you just have to do it "

DeGarmo, runnerup in last year's "Al," visited several US bases in the Middle East and Wastern Africa to host holiday shows.

Review

ABS-CBN's "Kontrobersyal," hosted by Boy Abunda, revisits tonight the show's most incredible and unforgettable

moments in 2005. The episode titled "Dos Mil Cinco" Includes the stories on Boracay's garbage problem, prostitution at the Navotas fishport, and faxe beggars.





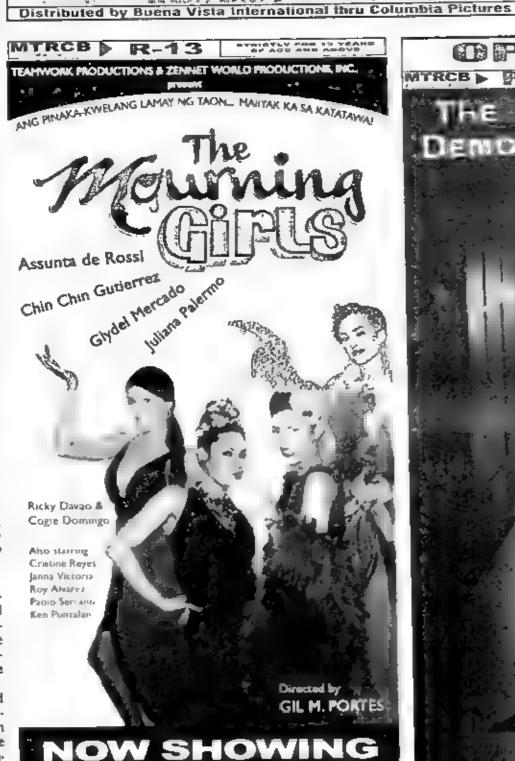
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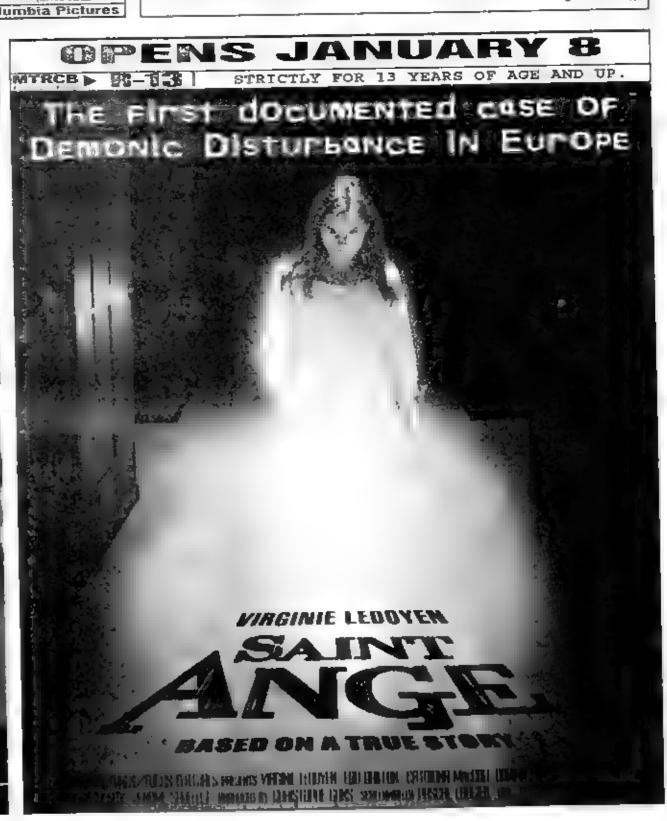
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> One-time registration required. Text TEX NOXIA < Name/Age> for Mokus handsets and TIX OTHERS <Name/Age> o-Nokio handsets. Example: TIX NOXIA LESTER LEYVAZ3

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BLUE MOON **ENTENG KABISOTE 2**

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[†] MOURNING GIRLS a: EXODUS

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Blue Moon' actors have edge in MMFF's

SINCE THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIval has generally become a popular rather than quality film fest, we wonder why it bothers to hand out awards for "exceptional" work. The reason must be that some people

want to have their cake and eat it, too. It's pasticularly frustrating to see stars jockeying for acting awards in the 2005 festival. Many of the film entries simply don't give them much opportunity to do any real acting, so why the fuss and bother?

How can you come up with an insightful performance in a fantasy epic, when you're unstaged by a flurry of astounding special effects? Nevertheless, there are those who stourly declare that some actors in fantasy productions will romp off with major acting awards tonight. Now, that's-fantastic.

In a more reasonable universe, the acting awards should go to performers in dramas, since they are provided with a more sensitive, artistic venues for thespic excellence. Since "Blue Moon" is the only one drama in the festi-

9 6 (222)

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GUARANTEED SEATS

MILLEANIN

12:20.2:50,5:30, 7:50.10:15

ENTENG KABISOTE. THE LEGEND CONTINUES

7:50 10:10

GIRLS RIG

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



val, it's logica, to believe that many of the acting awardees will come from this production.

Some people believe that Marvin Agustin has a good chance of clinching the Best Actor trophy for his tormented psycho role in the slasher-thriller, "Kutob."

While we admire Marvin's acting talent (he was excellent in "Maging Akin Muli" a month ago), we think his portrayal in "Kutob" was too obviously malevoient to be convincing. Marvin should take heed of the dictum,

"True art indes itself," and come up with a more judicious portrayal next time.

AKO LEGAL WIFE 12:85, 2:35, 6:85, 7:35, 10:05 PG-13

ENTENG KABISOTE 2

1:28, 3:45, 6:10, 8:36, 11:80

EXODUS

1:11, 2:35, 8:10, 8:25, 10:58

BLUE MOON

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January 6 - 8, 2006

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ANG CINEPLEX

ENTENG KABISOTE 2 AND LEGAL WIFE

However and schedules are a digres in change without prior reace

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THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

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GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

ACCESSION AND SUBJECT TO CHARGE WITHOUT PROPENDINGS FOR VERNICATION CALL MANAGE

Others think Zsa Zsa Padilla should win as Best Actress for her feisty, over-the-top portrayal of the title character in "Ako Legal Wife."

While we think highly of Zsa Zsa as ar we can't agree in this instance becaut heve she was miscast in her film fest s

Zsa Zsa looks very tisay, and yet made to speak in pidgin Togolos strongly suggested that she should loedly Chinese to be convincing. The she didn't, makes her portrayal obvir

a performance, so Best Actress, she ca Will the award go to Cherry Pie the "lucky" wife in the same film? Ye tress came up with an interesting and ing characterization, but we beheve supporting, not lead, performance should win in that secondary categor

All told, we think the ongoing jock the festival's acting awards is trying-h

Even the actors who win tonight pat themselves on the back too vigor cause they shall have won over a rath tinguished field.

'The Apprentice'

26 wishes for RP

THEY SAY YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD dog new tricks. Hopefully, that doesn't hold true for the dog-eat-dog world of show biz in this Year of the Dog, I asked some show biz movers and shakers what they hope to see in the local entertainment scene this year. Mine is to see Kapuso and Kapamilya stars all together in a TV extravaganza. Once they are on the same stage, those who truly stand out will... and those are just products of home studio hype will fade away.

Here are the top 26 answers. Let's all go bow-wow-wow and orf-orf-orf till the powers-that-be stop playing deaf to our pleas. Go fetch. · A fully-sponsored digital movie film

festival . The "old charm" of movies that live

·Real class acts-enough of mediocre actors from talent contests who are just out to tiberate their families from poverty. No-nonsense answers to show biz

 Radio stations playing more OPM More serious producers who will take bold untratives

 A revitalized movie industry, and not just during film festivals · More world-class local films · An end to RP television's "copycat syn-

 Networks taking care of their entire workforce, not just celebrities No more overload of commercials and

· More artists making it in the interna-

more compassionate toward actors

hard-sell "sponsored" portions in shows New year ·Less bickering among show biz Welcom ·Show biz news that make the public

across Sha More gay-oriented films where the gay (For character is not self-toathing, dying alone shangrila(+

A letter from Steven

the booklet jacket was. "A donation has been made on your behalf to Youth for Human Rights International." A note signed by Tom and girlfriend Katie Holmes read: "Please accept this charitable donation and enclosed booklet as birthright, Enjoy every minute with your family and friends this holiday season."

Scientology quotes

The rest of the booklet features relevant thoughts and drawings of kids, from 8 to 17, on the subject matter. Last year, Tom's gift was a plaque containing L. Ron Hubbard's Code of Honor.

one other card. My wife Janet correctly deciphered that it was from Eva Longoria who finally got a Globe Best Actress nomination for Desperate House-

ten notes One of the more interesting cards

Jane Seymour, too

Jane Seymour also sent a card of her oll painting which, according to the information printed on the back of the card, "was created by Jane...to represent the US Olympic Team participating in the 2006 Winter Olympics, Torino,

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our gift to you and may you experience oy from knowing that this will enable more children to understand and enjoy the human rights that are their

AKOLEGAL

WIFE PG13

MTRCB PO 13 12 20 2 45 5 10 7-35, 10:00

Shangida Piaza

BLUE MOON

MTRCB CP 12 08, 2 30, 4:85, 7:20, 6:46

KABISOTE 2 GP

The bookiet opens with a quote from the late L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, of which Tom is a member: "Human rights must be made a fact, not an idealistic dream." Quotes on human rights by Nelson Mandela and Kofl Annan, UN Secretary-General follow. Enclosed are a human rights music video titled "United" and a DVD called "Learning Human Rights."

I couldn't make out the signature on

wives " Eve wrote, "Thank you for my early Xmas gift-my nomination[!]" Eva's colleagues, Pelicity Huffman and Marcia Cross, also sent handwrit-

came from Robert Downey Jr., star of "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang." The card fea-tured "Mahras," Robert's painting in oil, acrylic and magic marker.

Can 633-766 Files, \$75 or 665-8660 633-6735 for more details

12 20, 2 45, 5,10, 7 35, 10 00

MIRCB GP 12 00 2 30, 5 00, 7 30 10 00

PREMIERENTMENTAL

MULAWIN THE MOVIE



acting awards

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ABC-5 is currently telecasting the two editions of "The Apprentice"-Donald Trump's original show on Mondays at 10 p.m., and Martha Stewart's version at 10 p.m. on Tues-

Trump's show is doing well, with this season's four remaining contenders crucking their skulls and busting their guts to win that prized job in the Donald's business empire.

Alas, Stewart's version is running out of steam, and we're told that the show won't have a second season. Still, its remaining contenders are giving the last legs of the competition everything they've got, and don't intend to bow out of the tube with a whimper

How come Stewart's show doesn't have the "legs" of Trump's original program? The conflicting answers to that question will be hotly debated for months, but our take is that Martha was too weak and unfocused in the show's early episodes to give the competition the steely toughness it needed to be truly ex-

OPENS JANUARY THE PG-13 Children below 13 yes, old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult Jennifer Kevin COSTNER ANISTON Based on a true rumor. SECT-ON E-587 www.nemorthsconoxid.com

show biz



i by others ang true to themselves. Down nage-building; no more secrets hild-friendly TV shows

in the capabilities of the stars, heir personal lives to reality shows that come

nreal" with their contrived scephasis on love teams: they give ie wrong notions about love

or overexposed stars. Viewers ik, too, from seeing the same "texting promos" on TV

√re really just money-making

gers who really sing with soul "birii" (our ears can no longer

edible talk show hosts (some edible these days!) on actors who can't sing and

can't act but try hard to e to young stars and veteran vho don't act their age when TV no bewer

the New Year with Watering promos-- "4 a.m. to 9 a.m. P20 "All You Can Eat P80 Breakfast 9 a.m.). Watering Hole is right gri-la Mall.

dback: e-mail wateringholerahoo.com)

From page A2-1

ictress depicted a Torino winpe. She also enclosed a family ier, husband James Keach of Joaquin Phoenix and herspoon's "Walk the Line" r of actor Stacy Keach) and

rrence Howard handwrote ge on Four Seasons Hotel's ionery: "Thanks for taking watch 'Hustle & Flow' (for ot a Best Actor nomination) My work in these films was

ir (he could be the next Denngton) penned this line on ge:. "Keep your heart warm. ve remain hot."

nd son actors Donald and herland sent separate cards . The elder Sutherland's ig is as tall as he is. Colin Farrure is the most striking of nly is it as tall as Donald's g but the strokes are ex-

Roosevelt?

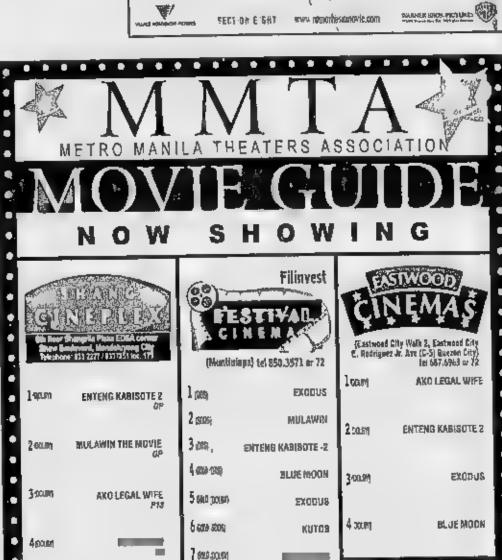
n a card from Eleanor Roon her White House address vas actually from Cynthia played the beloved former tiy in HBO's "Warm Springs" her sender and return adleanor Roosevelt from 1600 na Avenue.

the other folks who sent vere Maria Beilo, Christine ckard Channing, Toni Colof Fil-Am actor Alec Mapa), nkler Dolly Parton and the e TV shows, "The OC," "Arelopment" and "House."

est one? The note from Nick or of Wallace & Gromit, who heir first feature, "The Curse e-tabbit" after appearing in ning clay-animated shorts. ignature, Nick drew Gromit numbs-up sign. As Wallace Crackin' toast, Gromit!"

columnist 5585@yahoo.com.)

at



SHAKE PATTLE & ROLL ENTENG KABISDTE -2 AKO LEGAL WIFE Movie Theatres of the New Millenium Cinema 2000 Waltermart

MULAVIN

MULAWIN

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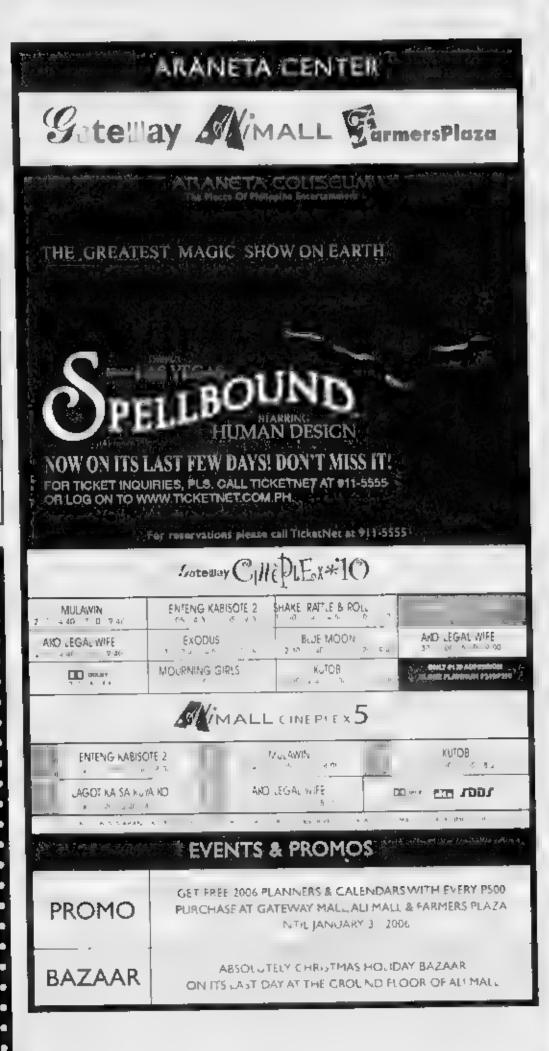
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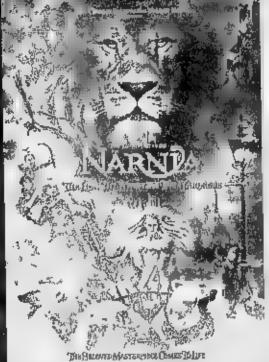
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Lower-than-expected '05 inflation greets RP

Peso pushes envelop, hits 3-year high in intra-day trade

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO CONTINUES TO RISE, HITTING A three-year high of 52.31.\$1 yesterday before closing at 52.565 to the US do lar at the Philippine Dealing System.

Giving up some gains after a sharp rally over the past few days, the local currency shed 16 centavos from Wednesday's finish of

The strengthening peso, softening inflation and easing of oil prices have put the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipmas under less pressure to tighten monetary policy.

Year-on-year inflation for December eased to bringing the 2005 average to 7.6 percent.

The December inflation rate of 6.6 percent, decelerating from the 7.1 percent posted in November, "was in line with the expected moderation of inflation," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said. "This will provide some elbow room for monetary policy, particularly given the easing of oil prices and the strengthening of the peso."

The statement was also made on the heels of bullish market sentiment fueled by expectations that the US Federal Reserve would soon end its spate of interest rate increases.

The BSP which will conduct its next monthly policy meeting next week, jacked apits key overnight interest rates thrice last year for a total of 75 basis points

Its overnight borrowing rate now stands at 7.5 percent, and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent—their highest levels in over three years.

The BSP also increased the reserve requirement on banks by two percentage points.

But while the BSP chief hinted of neutral monetary action over the near term, he did not rule out factors that could threaten price stability the level of liquidity, potential second-AGAIN/ B5

Currencies



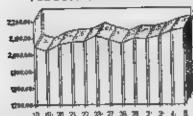
DECEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE \$2.58\$ =

As of 5 p.m., fan 5, 2006

GOLD: \$531.50-532.00 per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 5, 2006

STOCK MARKET PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page 82) Shares close 0.60% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY rose for the third straight session, adding 0.60 percent to leave the main index at a 10-

month high, dealers said. Share prices retreated in midmorning trade as investors locked in recent gains, but buyers returned to the game before closing. Losses in telco giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone capped the upside.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index was up 12 88 points at the day's high of 2,150.93. It hit a low of 2,129.34

Volume was 535.1 million shares worth P827.5 million (\$15.91 million) Gamers lad Joseps 32 to 26, with 57 stocks unchanged. The geso was at 52,43 to the US dollar in

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the

most actively traded stock, fell P5 to P1,845. Shares of property developers and banks extended recent gains, with Ayala Land Inc. up 25 centavos at P10 50 and Banco de Oro Linkversel Bank up P1 50 at P35.50. Food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp.'s A and B shares were steady at P65 and P89.50, respectively.

December rate also eases year-on-year to 6.6% on lower demand

By Michelle V. Remo

CONSUMER PRICES ROSE BY A LOWER-THAN-EXPECTED 6.6 percent from the previous year in December, as demand for food products and other commodities during the Christmas season did not grow as anticipated.

consumer prices—slower than the 7.1 forecast of between 7.7 and 7.9 percent. percent posted in November-brought

The 2005 December growth rate in better than the government's adjusted

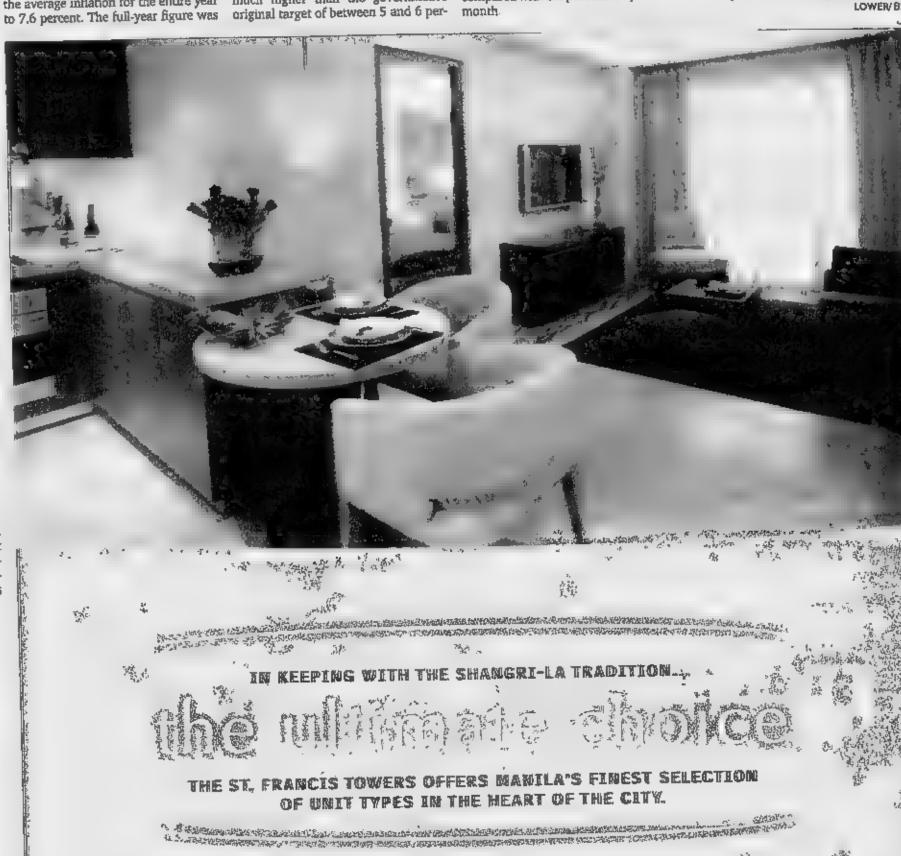
The 2005 inflation was, however, the average inflation for the entire year much higher than the government's

cent set early in 2005. Economic officials, who admitted as early as the first half of 2005 that the target would likely be missed, blamed the unexpected spike in oil prices last year for the higher-than-targeted inflation.

Data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that products under the "food, beverage and tobacco" (FBT) category posted a slower annual inflation rate of 5.6 percent in December compared with 6.3 percent the previous at 14.8 percent from 14.4 percent.

Annual inflation for clothing items slowed to 3.1 percent in December from 3.2 percent in November; for sert vices, 10.1 percent from 10.9 percent, and for miscellaneous items, 3 percent from 3.1 percent.

Accelerated inflation was recorded only for housing and repair (H&R), set; thing at 4.2 percent in December from 4.1 percent the month before. The same goes for fuel, light and water (FLW), landing



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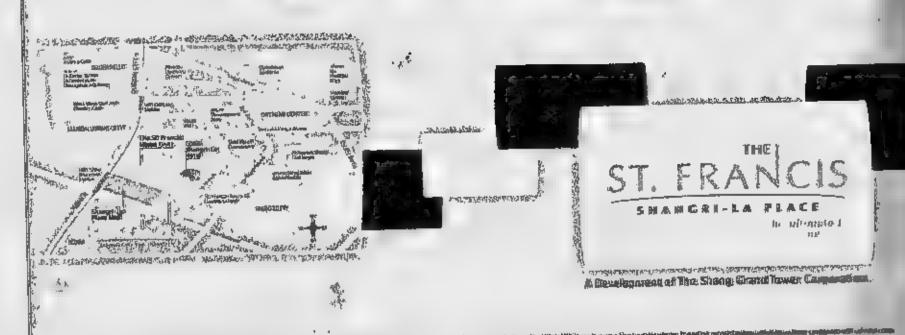
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BUSINESS

Gov't raises \$2.2B via bond float

Teves tells BIR to undergo major reforms

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES said he wanted the Bureau of Internal Revenue to undertake major reforms this year following its poor tax-collection performance in

Teves said the BIR, which accounted for more than 60 percent of the national government's revenue, should be at the forefront of the administration's efforts to inject vibrance into the country's fiscal sector. The government should refy less on Treasury income to achieve its fiscal targets, he said.

The finance chief said that among the measures proposed to improve the BIR's tax collection were the tightening of auditing procedures and establishing tie up with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for accurate figures on real income of corporate

The DOF would also ask the SEC to provide the BIR with data showing income of companies before paying taxes. The information would be compared with the income tax declaration made by the firms, he added.

Teves said the use of third-party information system would be maximized to improve revenue collection. Under the system, the BIR taps third parties, such as clients, to determine the accuracy of incomes declared by firms.

The DOF also wants the BIR to look for ways to improve tax collection from transport Michelle V. Remo operators, he said.

70% of total foreign commercial borrowings programmed for 2006

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SOLD \$2.2 billion worth of bonds in the international market on Wednesday, raising the bulk of its 2006 financing requirement early in the year.

Doing the bond float early was a strategy to take advantage of lower interest rates amid positive developments in the country's fiscal osition. Finance officials timed the bond float in January to avoid possible political risks in the months ahead that could dampen market confidence.

With this bond sale, the government has already raised about 70 percent of its \$3.1-billion programmed foreign commercial bor-

"We took advantage of the favorable environment. We only have \$900 million left, and we still have 11 months to think about it and look for proper timing," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in press conference yes-

Of the \$2.2 billion worth of bonds, \$1.5 billion were denominated in US dollars, while the remaining \$700 million were in euros (500 million euros)

The US-denominated tranche, which has a 25-year tenor, carries a coupon rate of 7.75 percent, and priced at 98.641 percent to yield 7.875 percent. The yield has a spread of 335.5 basis points over similarly dated US trea-

The euro-denominated tranche, which has a 10-year maturity, carries a coupon rate of 6.25 percent, and was priced at 99.112 per-credit rating.

cent to yield 6.375 percent. Its yield has a spread of 309.6 basis points over benchmark 2016 bonds.

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The underwriters for the bond issue were Citigroup, Credit Suisse First Boston, Deutsche Bank and UBS AG.

The Department of Finance (DOF) said in a statement that 40 percent of the demand for the dollar-denominated RP bonds came from investors in Asia; 25 percent, Europe, and 35 percent, the United States.

"This is a strong manifestation of the growing international investor confidence that is solidifying on the back of sound macroeconomic and fiscal management by the administration," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in the same statement.

The bond sale followed an announcement by the DOF that the national government's budget deficit for 2005 likely stood much lower than the official target of P180 billion. The DOF's forecast was between P160 billion and P165 billion, although Cruz said the final figure could even be better.

The announcement of the government's 2005 fiscal performance would be held on Jan. 16.

Asked whether the market's positive response to the Philippines' bond issue could finally create positive impact on the country's credit rating, finance officials said rating agencies were difficult to read as of the moment.

Officials said the government would simply aim to achieve its fiscal targets, noting that market sentiment was more important than

Devil in WTO detail

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) watch begins.

The WTO Ministerial Conference held last Dec. 13-18 in Hong Kong had some notable achievements. The WTO special and differential treatment provision was given substance through the two new categories of Special Products (SP) and Special Safeguard Mechamism (SSM) for the Agreement on Agriculture

commend Agriculture Secretary Segfredo Serrano for taking leadership roles in achieving this breakthrough. For the SP category, developing countries can now designate "an appropriate number of tariff lines as special products, guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development." For · the SSG caregory, we can have recourse to "a special safeguard mechanism based on import quantity and price triggers with precise arrangements to be further defined."

Blessing or curse

But as the saying goes, the devil is in the detail. Though the principles of the WTO take place.

are commendable, the detail of past WTO Nama bound rates agreements has generally benefited developed countries at great cost to the developing countries. The latter has experienced slower economic development, lost jobs and increased poverty. The WTO delivered benefits such as providing

mechanisms to guide international trade and penalize unfair trade practices.

The next six months are crucial, it is when the detail and whether the conference is a blessing or a curse for developing countries will be determined.

Private sector participation

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila ininated a risky but pioneering policy of institutionalizing private sector participation in the WTO negotiations. With the support of DA officials, Pavila, as the WTO Philippine delegation head, gave six Alyansa Agrikultura (AA) leaders official recognition as WTO advisers and a full WTO delegate status to one. The question is whether private sector participation will be continued in the next six months when the more crucial WTO negotiations will

Currently, about half of the Philippines' 5,620 tariff lines in the WTO Non Agricultural Market Access Agreement (Nama) have no imposed WTO bound (or maximum) rates. This gives us the flexibility to implement ap-

propriate tariff rates on these lines, which include 114 fishery products which now have a very low 7-per-

cent average tariff rate.

in the WTO Hong Kong Conference, a proposal was that countries should have all their Nama tariff lines except for 5 percent, subjected to WTO bound rates.

Hearing this, private sector leaders suggested that Sec. Pavila bring this up to the WTO body. The Alyansa said the 5-percent exemption was too low, and that important fishery products that needed the flexibility to continue their unbound tariff rates would suffer greatly. The Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) proposed a munimum of 20 percent, while the Pederation of Philippine Industries (FPI) proposed 10 percent. To Sec. Pavila's credit, he not only listened to these views, but brought the issue up in two important general plenary sessions.

Another example of a private sector contribution is the suggested quantitative formula by an Alyansa Agrikultura leader, done in consultation with a former French colleague of current WTO Director General Pascal Lamy.

A product's bound tariffs should never be below the rate that will level the playing field between the developed nation's combined government support of subsidies and tariffs, and those of a developing nation. In the past, developed countries have limited the definition of leveling the playing field to leveling only tariffs, without considering subsidies.

To illustrate, if a developed nation's produes has 0 percent tariff and a 20 percent subsidy, while a developing nation's product has 7 percent tariff and 0 percent subsidy, the direction was that the developing nation's prodnet should go down to a "level" 0 percent tariff. However, to level the playing field in the correct manner, the appropriate tariff for the developing nation's product should not be decreased to 0 percent but instead increased to 25 percent.

This is calculated by using the formula T=(1-S) / S, where T is the appropriate tariff rate for the developing nation's product and S is the subsidy rate of the developed nation's product. Thus, in this case, (1-20 percent) / 20 percent equals 25 percent. Modifications to this formula

1 450115 1 758700 Pound 0 105344 Dollar 0.783760 0.645240 Franc 0.719116 Dollar 0.501758 Dollar 0.746491 0.615510 2 187685 0.219871 Saudi Arabia 0.500236 Collar Brunei 880000.0 Ruplah 0.020384 Thailand 0.224504 HAF Dirham 1.000000 Euro Euro 0.271453 Argentina Peso 0.357795 Real Brazil

Unit

Dollar

Korea. Sweden

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Crew completes purchase of Apex

CREW GOLD CORP AND IT'S PHILIPpine affiliate, Mapula Creek Gold Corp., recently completed their \$6.6million purchase of Apex Mining Co. and were now possed to fully take over Apex's management and operations.

Apex is seen adding more than 100,000 ounces of gold to Crew's annual output this year and up to

200,000 ounces by 2007. Apex's principal assets are the Masara and Teresa gold mines in Compostela Valley in southeastern Mindanzo, which are among the most

prolific gold belts in the country. Crew and Mapula Creek have been

upgrading Apex's facilities and Greenland, which produces 100,000 should start production early thus year, It had mobilized three drill rigs to initially conduct 9,000 meters of resource-definition drilling in more than 10 sites and will be substantially adding more drill rigs this month.

This early Crew also had undertaken community projects such as rehabilitating the Teresa Elementary School, improving a public walkway bridge, and supplying a service vehicle for school and community use. It had also established a tree nursery with the local government.

Crew's major mining asset is the high-grade Nalunaq gold mine in

ounces each year. Crew also has a 20percent stake in the Barberton gold mine in South Africa equivalent to an output of about 20,000 ounces of gold peryear

Crew recently offered to buy Guinor Gold Corp. for US\$328 mil-Hon. Guinor operates a West African gold project in Guinea that is expected to produce around 300,000 ounces of gold a year in 2007.

With the acquisition of Guinor, Crew will have a projected gold production of more than 600,000 ounces In 2007.



ERWIN OCAMPO AVANTE, CFA MARY JANE TAN CHIONG, CFA ALAN BRENTON T. CHUA, CFA ALLAN U. COTAOCO, CFA JULIET SIA DYTOC, CFA JAYSON ONG NG, CFA DERRICK NICOLAS ORNEDO, CFA MARIE-CHRISTINE G. TANG, CFA RUTH ANN LIM TY, CFA MARK L., YU, CFA XINYUN ZHANG, CFA

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BUSINESS

Air Force One stories

AIR FORCE ONE IS BUILDING A similarly humongous branch in Libis, Quezon City, barely three years since the airport-area establishment blasted into the scene to become the best KTV-men's "spa" in Metro Manila.

Ferdinand Topacio, lawyer for one of the Air Force partners, conlow-key Chinoy owners had already chosen a watehouse in Libis for the expansion.

Topacio declined to go into details, antil all the regulatory issues shall have been resolved. Located near the Ninoy Aquino In- cation, Air Force One has gener-

firmed that the consortium of ternational Airport in Parafiaque, the one-hectare Air Force One complex had originally been designed as a shopping mall but the business was scuttled with the

COCKTALES

Victor C.

Agustin

onset of the 1997 currency chais. Despite its out-of-the way lolocal patrons but even in Internet blogs worldwide.

Said to be the same group behind the successful Classmates spa is even named, in a nod to its KTV on Quezon Avenue's entertainment row, the Air Force One owners successfully improved the industry image with a combination of a live-performance theater that has attracted the likes of such stars as Ara Mina, Angelica Jones, Maui Taylor and Patricia Javiet, tastefully designed private rooms and the acceptance of credit card payments even for "spa" services.

The ground floor even has a

ated a buzz not only among the branch of the Hong Kong and local patrons but even in internet Shanghai Bank and a 24-hour ATM for emergency cash withdrawals.

Following its airline motif, the target clientele, Flight 168-168 in Mandarin apparently sounds like "gain fortune all the way."

The orivate rooms, which come in first and business classes, even sport airline initials and flight numbers.

Money-go-round

· MACQUARIE Research, in its latest study of the local banking inclustry, has cited Banco de Oro, Bank of

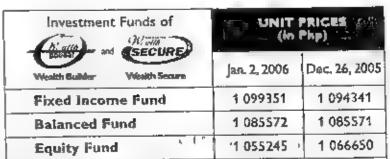
the Philippine Islands and Chinabank for their "strong balance sheets (that) would be in a good position to post better loan growth and profstability." Specifically, Chinabank was singled out as "the bank that should post the best cost-to-income ratio in

(the) succeeding quarters." Ta:pan Henry Sy Sr. has been steadily accumulating shares of Belie Corp., besides Chinabank.

Heard through the grapevine

DOCOMO will initially acquire a 5 percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., from, ironically, out of the 14.6 percent stake that its parent company, NTT, a.ready owns in PLDT

(Email. cocktales_pdi@pldtdstriet or cocktales pdi@ya-



These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered manual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the insurance Commission. The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularille.com.ph.

Devil in WTO detail

case being investigated.

Conclusion

should be made depending on the this time, it will hopefully be ing the recent WTO confer- nalized in the next crucial six done with meaningful private ence With this combination, months. sector participation, which it is hoped that more of the an-The WTO watch begins But Pangamban encouraged dur out in the WTO detail being fi- or telefox 02 8516635)

(For inquires or suggestions both Secretaries Favila and gel than the devil will come email agrawatchphil@yahoo.com



A New Galleria Lifestyle in Ortigas.

How do you like to have your favorite capacetno in the evening? Or Fizza Italiano delivered at your doorstep five minutes after you called the Pizzeria's direct line? Or have that slick suit dropped by, just in time for your company presentation?

Few reasons why you should own a home at the center of it all close to everything with the comforts and convenience of condo living

You can tell your friends about it or you can take it with you! The unique experience of hving in a "Galleria" that is

Such an experience can be hard to define and could be lost if one seeks its meaning literally. To some, Galleria is a destination, a cosmopolitan place offering the finest brands and services. Or a roofed promenade that refers to the very successfu, Robinsons Galleria Mail. Others today refer to a "new Galleria" as THE residential address and THE ideal

And definitions can go as long as the number of synonyms the word has Galleria is more than a name, more than something felt, lived, and expenenced Today it is really about the people who come and ave to the Galleria It is the everyday life that comes with the diversity of every man and woman or family who has the privilege to enjoy the fun and excitement. It is the afestyle the experience, the comfort and convenience All these, speaks of the word Galleria

These are the many reasons why Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) developed a "new" Galleria. The newest residential condo development to rise at the heart of Ortigas Business District -East of Galleria, is just a block away from Robinsons Galteria Mall. This 45 storey tower located along Topaz Street, Ortigas Center, promises a new level of urban lifestyle. Close to specialty centers, commercial establishments, banks, schools, churches and medical institutions, EDSA and C-5.

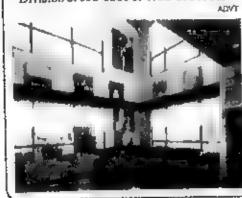
People come to the East of Gallena to take pleasure and savor each others' stories and exchange opinions and viewpoints The Galleria offers the ideal ambience of home just the right place that pinches the heart and creates lasting memories.

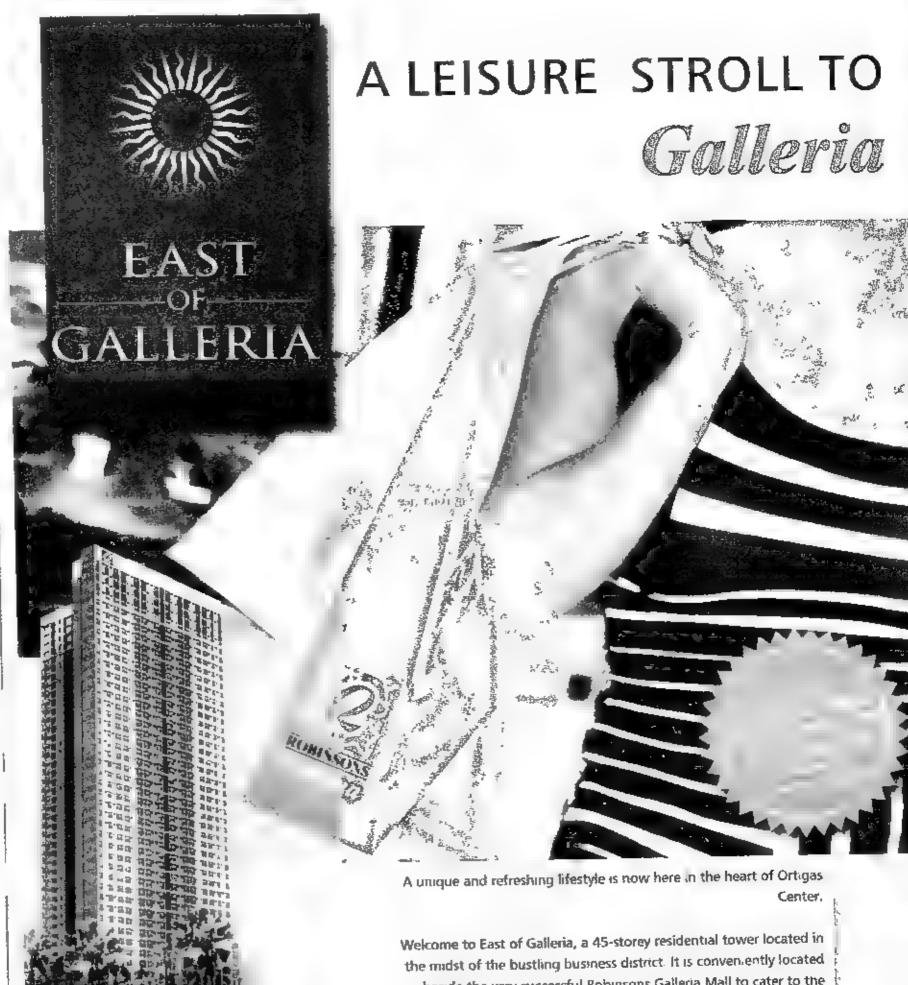
The new Galleria, after all, is not just a collection of homes and people, but a social "beehive", a community where people interact and compliment each other

Residents can enjoy an array of amenities plus the panoramic views like the Wack Wack Golf and Country Ciab. Units are priced for as low as P2.2M and models are available in 1-BR, 2BR and

3-BR Bi-Level and Loft Types. Truly. Gaueria is more than a name - it is simply the thousand reasons of experiencing life, fun, leisure and convenience combined in one. Experience and discover a home that nly East of Galleria can give - lifestyle Living at the center of it all

For inquiries, please call Robinsons Land Corporation High-Rise Buildings Division at 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.





beside the very successful Robinsons Galleria Mall to cater to the residents' daily needs. Minutes away from major roads like EDSA and C-5, it is also within the vicinity of malls, banks, institutions and

other major establishments.

East of Galleria truly embodies the ideal of comfort and convenience, offering the best of both worlds with the choice of either bi-level or loft-type units. Available in one, two and threebedroom units, East of Galleria assures residents of utmost privacy in condo living as the master's bedroom is located a level above the dining, kitchen and living areas. High ceilings, airy atmosphere and expansive glass windows feature breathtaking views of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club as well as a multitude of magnificent skylines.

At the heart of the busy city lies a comfortable and affordable home, here at East of Galleria



Acres. Less)

> E-mail: hrbdsales@robinsonsland.com www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph

BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Lucrative target markets for 2006

By Karen V. De Asis Contributor

THAN ATHER complain about shifting consumer preferences and economic downturns, the more shrewd among manufacturers and retailers are focusing on the customer.

With their marketing-oriented approach, these manufacturers and retailers don't allow consumers to just dictate the trend and then follow with a multitude of like-minded competitors.

Instead, these retailers and manufacturers with foresight are shaping trends by knowing and understanding the customers' unmet needs and being first to address these.

Basic to understanding the market is to know who and which customer to focus re-

Concentrating on a primary market provides the manufacturer and retailer the means to optiimze his resources and understand the customers' deepest motivations, needs and aspirations.

Here are some of the likely top customer markets for 2006 whose needs have yet to be fully attended

The indulgent woman

The new genre of females have newfound pocket power Employed or otherwise, women by nature are resourceful in looking for ways to augment their famitaly's income or indulge their personal and kids' needs.

become the family breadwinner. YA 2004 workiwide survey reveals diag one of every four married women earns more than her huse

Women also tend to buy more established brands what men.

They are most likely to indulge themselves, their kids or family. With higher disposable income, they buy more reputable brands,

their purchases extend to bigticket items like cars or homes.

Teens and tweens

Teens, 13 to 19 years old and tweens, 8 to 12 years old are favored recipients of their indulgent mothers' new financial

They exert a strong influence on their mothers' purchases, either for themselves, for their moms or the rest of the family.

Overseas Filipino workers

Christened the unsung heroes, their hard toil in a foreign land away from their families has kept the local economy

Yuppies or yocos

Marriage takes a backseat to these vocos (young cosmopoli-

Career opportunities, freedom, extensive travels overseas are but some of the major reasons that keep them happy staying "urban

They are high-comfort seekers and are partial to digital lifestyles and convenience-driven products and services.

Hobo and soho

Home-office, business-office (Hobo) and small-office, homemicro-en-(Soho) trepreneurs hold offices in their cation needs. own homes.

They move around, patronize business centers, coffee shops and business process outsourcing.

Once part of the corporate world, they have left the mainstream workforce to start new careers and businesses on their

Many are consultants engaged in various business disciplines.

Silent, astute workers, their chents include a who's who of new challengers to dominant;"

Hobo and Soho micro-entrepreseurs are perfect targets for digital and mobile technology inchiding all types of portable office machines and digital assistants.

Digital technology address

their productivity and communi- brand.

Mr. Mums

More and more men are becoming involved in parenting and housekeeping chores like house cleaning, marketing and cooking.

Their involvement in what was traditionally an all-female ourf has slightly changed buying influences and decision-making in some homes and perhaps, some household categories.

'Men'are' rational, loyal brand buyers. They rarely shift and go for reputable brands. They rely on word of mouth endorsements from family and friends. Nonetheless, insightful information on packaging labels may yet encourage them to try a new

Male metrosexuals.

Judging by the number of cosmetic, hair care and skin care new product entrants, indeed male personal care products have come a long way in fueling the growth of the personal care category.

This phenomenon was earlier established in an ACNielsen Global 2004 report that reveals that the male population has boosted sales of personal care products specially in body cleansing and deodorants.

The baby boomers

The most populous generation is also the most vain. Aged 40 to 60 years old, this demographic segment is preoccupied with staying healthy and younger longer.

aging but strongly believe that today's modern science can help delay, if not mitigate, aging.

Baby boomers are suckers for health and wellness lifestyles and products, invasive and non-invasive surgeries.

Silver-haired citizens

As modern science discovers ways to prolong life, and as the population over 60 years old soars, new categories serving the market are expected to grow.

Caregories that have yet to be tapped locally include senior citizen shopping center, edu-travel, continnous learning and self-enrichment programs and silver fashion.

Muslim community

Mushim communicies have a

They have come to terms with stronghold of at least 5 percent of the general population While local manufacturers and retailers have yet to seriously address the needs of this group globally, marketers across different categories from ultrachic fashion brands to persona. care to technology brands are racing to address the needs of Muslims, presenting this group with products and services suited to their culture, tradition

and lifestyle. (De Asis, with website address at www.karendeasis.com, is a professor of marketing and brand management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business and is chief brand strategist of Marketing Knowledge Series Training and Consultancy.)

Sta. Rosa launches Expo 2006

fort to entice more investors and position the city as the "Rising Investment Capital of South Luzon," this city's government has launched the Santa Rosa Expo 2006.

Mayor Joey Catindig said recently that the two-week event slated on Jan. 9-18 would feature activities and expositions aimed at promot-Ing viable business opportuniries in Senta Rosa.

Already known as the "Little Detroit of the Philippines" as five of the eight biggest car manufacturers in the country have assembly plants here, the city is also fast becoming the "Call Center Capital" of the country.

Infonx, one of the largest call centers in the world, recently opened its facility inside Santa Rosa's Information Technology Business Park.

"This event is actually the first of its kind here in Calabarzon area. We want to showcase our city as the best place where businessmen can put their investments," Catindig said.

He said that aside from its proximity to the main business districts in Metro Manila, Santa Rosa also boasts of five industrial parks where investors can put up their facilities.



HONDA is one of five automotive companies with operations in Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Canndig said the city also he added. prides itself in being among the most peaceful in the re-

The city, he added, hosts the biggest tourist destination in the region-the Enchanted Kingdom theme park, which, he said, attracts over two million people a year.

Catindig said Santa Rosa also has several high-end and low-end residential villages developed in anticipation of the influx of local migrants.

"Soon, our city will also be the 'Education Center' of the region as big universities and colleges in Manila are set to escablish their branches here,"

The event would feature a motor show that would showcase the latest car models of Toyota, Nissan, Honda, Ford and Star Motors.

A display of vintage and sports cars at the Enchanted Kingdom is one of the highlights of the show.

Catindig said an investors' fair would showcase the ingenuity of Santa Rosa residents while the Bayanihan Festival is set to show the locale's innate trait of helping one another attain even the most impossible feats." Marion Ramos, PDI Southern Luxon Bu-

Truth in advertising, service packaging, and 'tingi' marketing

O: IF CONSUMER PERCEPTION is the primary basis for getting people to buy products and services, does thus mean that truth in advertising is irrelevant in marketing? A: On the contrary, What this

means is that marketers ought to be extra careful in using consumer perception to motivate consumers through advertising.

As a marketer, you can use consumer perceptions for good or bad. Truth in advertising is good. Deception is bad. You can get away with it at first, but it won't last.

Consumers will, sooner or later, find out that they've been fooled. As Abraham Lincoln said: "You can fool some of the people some of the time. But you can't fool all of the people all the time."

Deception, of course, includes cases of keeping quiet about what you know may harm consumers. That's a case of withholding "truth."

Take the case of Merck's Vioxx, the acute pain killer and antiarthritis medication, that had to be withdrawn from the market because Merck, or more precisely its medical researchers, withheld from publication in the New England Journal of Medicine knowledge of three heart attacks among Vioxx's patients participating in the large scale clinical study of Vloxx.

The heart attacks took place in the final five weeks of the trial study. The patients who had the heart attack were supposedly at low risk for heart problems.

But this was not the only thing the Merck researchers withheld The study had apparently found "more cardiovascular problems potentially connected to Vioxx."

These problems were not reported in the published study. Such withholding of knowledge is highly unethical and a serious

breach of the Hippocrade oath. in pharmaceutical marketing,

1ARKETING Rx Min. Ned Roberto R & Ardy Roberto

published clinical studies are a powerful "advertising" material for persuading doctors, such that withholding knowledge of the three heart attacks and the connection to more cardiovascular problems violated the truth in advertising maxim.

Q: Your column mentioned that the consumers' first physical contact with a consumer product is not with the product itself, but the packaging. That's why you said it's critical to give packaging more than the passing attention it's given. How about in the case of services? Where is the fitst physical contact?

A: Think of consumer goods packaging as the product's tangible presentation at point of purchase. So let's rephrase your question into: For a service, what is the tangible presentation at point of purchase?" We've written before that a ser-

vice is intangible. To give it a tangible presentation, you need (in the words of Ted Levitt of Harvard) to "tangibilize its intangibles." How do you do that? Experts in service marketing

say that service is presented to customers through three things. (1) a satisfying service staff, (2) a satisfying service venue, and (3) a satisfying service process-

So there you are. A service packaging has three dimensions that you must all satisfy simultaneously.

It is because of this inseparable, multi-dimensional character of services that marketers like to say that service marketing is

much more difficult than consumer goods marketing. Notice that one of the three di-

mensions of service packaging involves a human being. That's not at all easy to control in terms of consistent quality. Q. In "tingi" marketing or low

unit pack/sachet marketing, how do you determine the right size to A: This is one of those market-

ing problems where you cannot go wrong if you go by the "marketing concept." It's that concept that says: "Al-

ways start from where your consumers are and never from where you (as marketers) are." So find out what your target consumers' preference is. Or look around for a benchmark. Consider, for exampie, shampoo.

The size of its sachet is a singleuse amount for its target consumer, the amount of which has been validated by a product test. Or take cheddar cheese, the

low unit pack of which is a single The size and thinness was deter-

mined largely by moms of school kids bringing cheese sandwiches. Or take the latest mega users of

"tingi," namely, Smart (who picneered it) and Globe (who followed suit after ax months) Both of these marketers have

applied the low unit pack on SMS, the phone's so-called *killer application" and its "pasa load." That pass load's tingl started

with P5 and based on continuing consumer demand, has now gone down to the unbelievable pasa load amount of P21

So the key to answering your question are your target consumers. Consult them. Learn

Keep your questions conung. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God blessi

Seminar on soap making set

there is great potential in the soap-making business.

The good news is that this is a home and requires just a little technical knowledge.

in line with government efforts to promote entrepreneurship, the Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program (GTSDP) will conduct a one-day seminar on soap

use soap every day. This is why University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on Jan. 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Among the topics to be dis-

type of business you can start at cussed are: theories and principles of soap making, sourcing of materials, costing and pricing of different kinds of soap. There will also be hands-on ex-

perience in making different

kinds of soap, such as liquid dish-

washing soap, liquid hand soap,

PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD making at UPAA Alumni Center, liquid all-purpose soap, bar detergent soap (all purpose) powder soap (all purpose), herbal bath scap (papaya, kalamansi, oatmenl, etc.) fabric softener, liquid bleach.

An added feature of the seminar is a free lecture on smart entrepreneurship (how to start and manage your own soap business). Those interested may call 952-29-34/ 952-40-28 / 913- 65-51 and 951-29-66.

BUSINESS

DA prepares lifestyle check on employees

By Christine A. Gaylican

TO TEMPER GRAFT AND CORRUPTION IN the Department of Agriculture, Secretary Domingo Panganiban has created an internal task force to conduct a afestyle check on officials and employees.

"The delivery of services to the people had been hampered by corruption in the agency," Panganiban said. "By instituting reforms in the DA, corruption opportunities or vulnerabilities may be reduced or eradicated."

Panganiban admitted that this was a very sensitive operation, that his predecessors med "to no avail"

The task force that will investigate charges of unexplained wealth and irregularities in the DA will submit its findings to the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Ombudsman, for their evaluation and validation by the end of the month, Panganiban said.

Panganiban said he would accept recommendations and suggestions on how to go about the program from all employees to improve the DA's operations.

He added that an internal audit system would also be put in piace to nd the agency of unaccounted funds for "ghost" projects.

"This has to be done to change the view of the public of the agency and it's high time that government service be made responsive to the public," he added.

He admitted that this effort was an offshoot of the investigation into P728 million in agriculture funds that were allegedly misused by former agriculture officials led by former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante.

Panganiban added that the DA was also looking into reducing the number of its employees. The DA has at least 1, 200 officials and em-

pioyees in the central and regional offices who receive P1.6 bithon in salaries from the DBM. The budget excludes more than P1 billion in additional salaries for officials and employ-

ees deployed in DA's attached agencies.

"We want to remove redundant personnel,"

Panganiban said.

He said DA's central office in Quezon City was overstaffed and so were the other agencies, including the National Food Authority and the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Lower ... From page BI

Although the 2005 inflation was slower than expected, analysts said there were a lot of risks facing the country in 2006 that could push up the growth in consumer prices

Under the 2004 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, inflation for 2006 and 2007 was pegged at between 4 and 5 percent

But Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist for Banco de Oro, said the average inflation for 2006 would likely but the 8-percent mark. "We see that the drop in crude prices was

only temporary, so an 8-percent inflation for this year is expected," he said in an interview. Ravelas' figure does not stray far from the National Economic Development Authority's in-

flation forecast of 8 to 8.5 percent for this year. The analyst cited the risks of lingering weather problems, such as the recent hurricanes in the United States, that could dampen supply, as well as the continued economic growth of China expected to further increase demand for oil.

Also, the scheduled increase in the value added tax rate in February, from 10 to 12 percent, is seen to have a slight impact on commodity prices, he said.

With the inflationary pressures seen for this year, Rave as said, the Bangko Sentral ng Pil.pinas would be expected to tighten its monetary policy.

The BSP might raise its key policy rates every quarter by 25 basis points, he added

The central bank's overnight borrowing rate stands at 7.50 percent and the overnight lending rate stands at 9.75 percent. With a report from AFP

Peso pushes ...

From page B1

round inflationary effects, possible exchange rate movements due to excess liquidity and narrowing interest rate differentials, as well as adverse shifts in inflation expectations

The BSP cluef said the inflation figure for December, as well as for the whole of 2005 showed that the ongoing pressures on consumer prices continued to be largely tied to energy-related items such as fuel, transport and communication costs, and selected food items

"On the other hand, demand-based pressures on prices remain subdued, as suggested by the sustained slowdown in core inflation to 5.8 percent in December," he said.

In 2006, Tetangco said average inflation was still expected to exceed the government inflation target of 4 to 5 percent.

"Inflation is seen to rise slightly in early 2006 as a result of the VAT (value-added tax) rate adjustment," the BSP governor said. "But the strengthening of the peso and the easing of world prices from their peak in 2005 should help cushion the impact of the VAT."

The peso, which appreciated by about 6 percent against the US dollar in 2005, has continued its upturn this year and is seen by currency traders as heading toward the 51:\$1 level

Aside from the strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers during the holidays, the peso has been lifted by favorable market sentiment, in turn, fueled by a rosy outlook on the government's fiscal position this year.

DMCI to invest in coal-fired plants

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONSTRUCTION GIANT DMCI HOLDings Inc. is set to invest some \$400 milhon in coal-fired power plants over the next five years.

DMCI chief finance officer Herbert Consunji said DMCI would put up power plants in Concepcion, Iloilo with a combined capacity of approximately 100 megawatts.

DMCI likewise plans to set up two power plants on Semirara Island that will contribute 400 megawatts of power to the national grid.

The investment in these power projects will come from a combination of

debt and equity.

Consump said DMCI has already informed the Department of Energy of its plans to put up the coal-fired power plants, with the necessary permits being processed for approval.

As part of its diversification into the

Construction giant considering \$400-M investment in 5 years

power industry, DMGI earlier submitted its bid for the National Power Corp.'s 600-megawatt coal-fired Calaca power plant in Batangas.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), the agency tasked to sed the faciaties of Napocor, will conduct a second round of bidding for the Calaca coal-fired thermal power plant, the first major asset of the government scheduled for privatization early last year.

The Calaca power facility was first of fered to prospective investors last June.

But without a transition supply contract (TSC) to ensure a ready market for its electricity, two of the three prospective bidders pulled out, forcing PSALM to cancel the bidding.

Aside from DMCl, First Generation Holdings of the Lopez Group earlier expressed interest to bid for the plant.

pressed interest to bid for the plant.

The bid follows DMCI's expected higher profits in 2005 at P3.1 billion, buoyed by a one-time gain of more than P1 billion from the sale of shares in its coal sub-

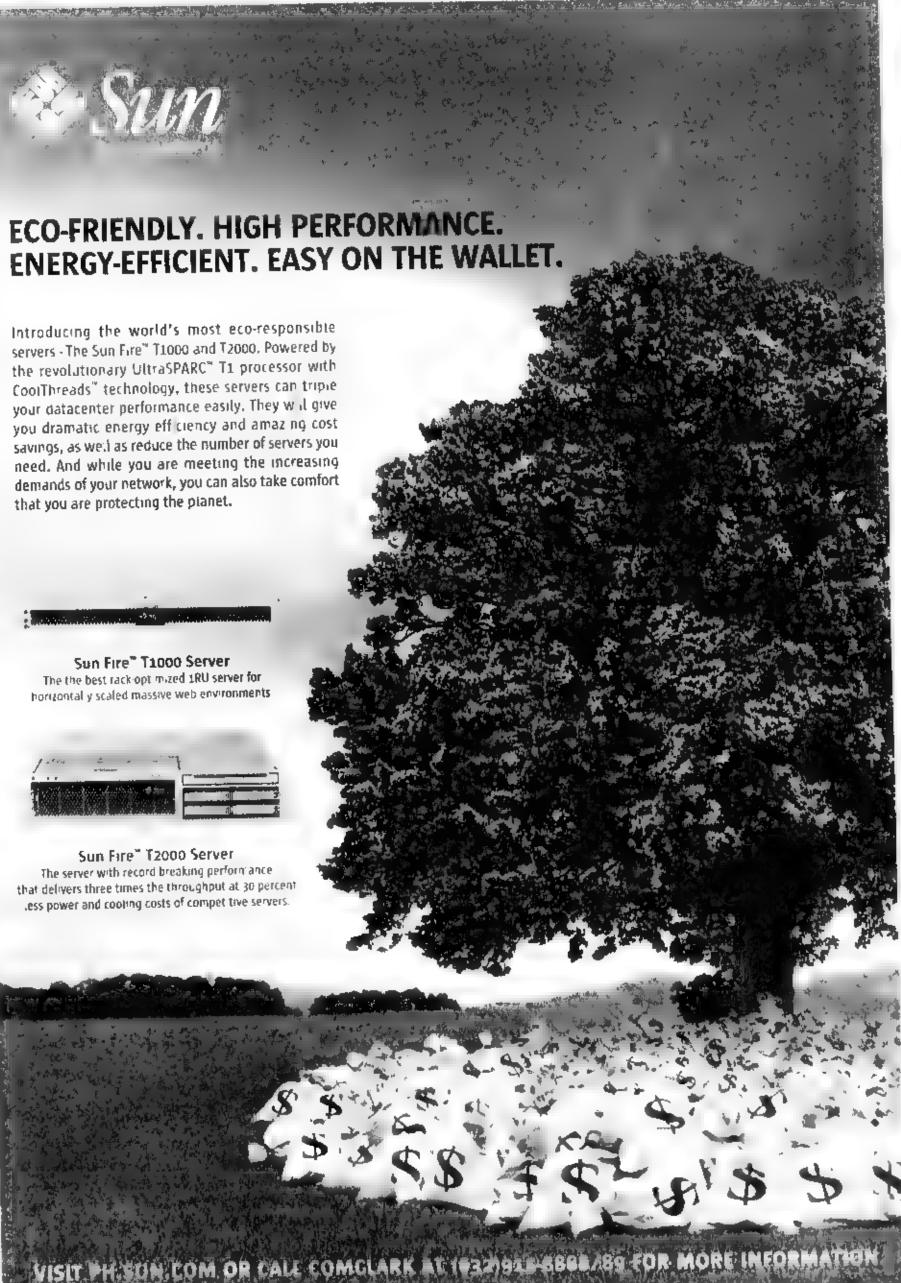
sidiary, Semirara Mining Corp., and property sales from its international offices.

Semirara already supplies coal to the Calaca power plant, but the bulk of the power plant's requirements still comes from imported sources.

Semirara has an existing contract with Napocor to supply coal to the Calata plant until 2010.

The DMCI Group projects that 52 percent of its total coal volume will go to Napocor-run power plants.

| PRULINK | PRU LIFE U.K."创 | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Current Week Jan 3, 2006 | Lasi Week Dec. 27 2005 | | | |
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.35305 | 1.34278 | | | |
| Managed Fund - Peso | 1 47345 | 1 46089 | | | |
| Growth Fund - Peso | 1,12927 | 1 11363 | | | |
| Bend Fund - US Dollar | 1.2162 | 1 2076 | | | |
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City Tel: (632)915 8888/89



Sun Microsystems Philippines, Inc. 32nd Floor, Philam Life Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City Tel: (632)885-7867.

Fax.(632)885-7866

Distributor: ComClark Network and Technology Corporation Unit 2501 Raffles Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Pasig

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People, Events Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Julie's marks 25 years of bread-baking success

IN ANY ENDEAVOR, SUCCESS is best mea-creasing its franchising business efficiently. sured by the fulfillment of the heart. It involves a shared sense of happiness that both the giver and the receiver gain. But the effect is even more fulfilling when things start from humble beginnings and commitments are constantly delivered

For 25 years, Julie's Bakeshop (JBS), in its pursuit of service excellence, continues to bring fresh, hot and tasty bread for everyone. From Laoag to Zamboanga, Julie's has become a byword of good bread. It nestles at the center of the town and has even become a landmark of many communities all over the country, Truly, Julie's Bakeshop has earned a spot close to the hearts of the Filipmo family.

Julie's industry leadership is manifested in innovations that enhance both its products and franchising business. These innovanous broaden the franchisee's capacity to bring the product closer to the people. For example, a franchisee can build an outlet within the area of his bakeshop to make fresh bread even more available. There are Julie's mobile vans and peddling carts, which serve as rolling bread shops that deliver fresh bread to areas such as subdivisions and far-flung barangays. Julie's also has the first-of-its-kind frying station for fried pastry, which is an additional bakery facility where people can see the freshness of Julie's hot breads. Other product tieups include Julie's Cheese, which was developed because of its popular cheese bread.

Successful partnerships

Because of the imparive of Juhe's management and staff, the company has successfully partnered with the country's top companies such as Coca Cola, Magnolia, Unilever Best Foods, Purefoods Flour, Selecta, Shellane, Bambi, URC, General Milling Corp, Pilmico, PLDT, Globe Telecom and many more.

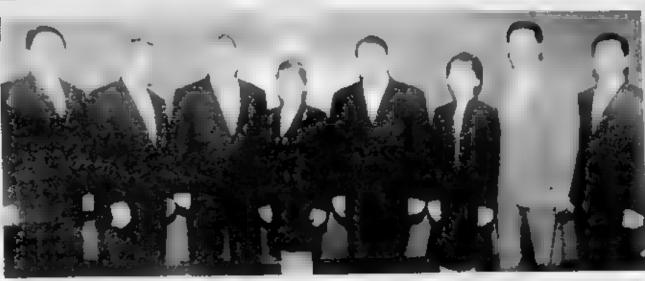
To ensure that Julie's Bakeshop remains a strong company, it established bonds with relevant organizations such as the Philippine Marketing Association, Philippine Franchise Association, Philippine Association of National Advertisers, Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. Bakers Associations of the Philippines, and Cebu Bakers Associations. Being an affiliate of these institutions strengthens its commitment to better serve the public through offering quality fresh bread and in-

Truly, Julie's Bakeshop's success is not only measured in the fulfillment of its endeavors as a value driven franchisee business, but also in establishing harmonious relationship with the Filipino community. To date, the company combinues to imitiate or support various causeoriented programs. Some of the past fruitful community activities that involved Julie's Bakeshop were "Leaders for the Future Awards", which gave tribute to deserving elementary graduates with exemplary leadership qualities; "Operation Smile", where it donated bread and financial support during the surgical operation of harelip children; and the yearly "Nutrition Month Feeding Program", in cooperation with the Department of Health and the National Nutrition Council. Other programs, which were supported by Julie's Bakeshop, were the "Walk for a Cause" and "Fun Run" as facilitated by the local government and non-government organizations. It has also extended help to several rehef operations during calamities. Julie's has chosen to extend tangible support to the celebration of this year's Sinulog, through providing the most basic need, which is hot bread for visiting devotees staying at the Plaza Independencja's Devotees City.

With over 180 franchisees operating more than 500 branches and outlets nationwide, Julie's Bakeshop becomes one of the country's most popular and well-loved brands boasting an estimated market share of more than 60 percent in the franchised bakery business. This record of consistency brings Julie's closer not only to its vision "A Julie's Bakeshop in every town", but also to become a part of a lot of Filipino families.

Another Julie's Bakeshop's source of pride is its human resource, a strong team of highly qualified professionals ensuring high quality products and services. The loyalty to give the best and to contribute to the company's success is their main dedication.

Indeed, Julie's Bakeshop's achievement in its business and good relationship with the Filipmo people is a measure of true growth. And the people behind this success are the real team players- the management and staff. Because of them, Julie's not only brings its bread closer to the people but it also boosts the capacity of the franchisees towards growth.



COURTESY CALL TO NEW INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Sun Life Financial Philippines executives recently visited new latsurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo (4th from jeft). With her are (from left) SVP for sales Roy Yu, VP human resources Ed Salem, FVP Henry Herrera, president and CEO Lorenzo Tan, SVP and chief administration officer Riza Mantaring, SVP for finance Caesar Alterejos and VP for information technology Richard Lim.

Therapharma's gift to the country's future on simvastatin's 3rd year

THERAPHARMA, A DIVISION OF UNITED Laboratories, recently celebrated the third anniversary of the launch of its brand of simvastatin by joining hands with World Vision, an international Christian organization that sends poor children to school.

John Dumpit, general manager of Therapharma, handed over a check worth P150, 000 to broadcast journalist Karen Davila, a World Vision supporter and spokesperson, representing the company's donation to the organization's child sponsorship program. A week earlier, Therapharma donated another P150,000 during Vidastat's celebration in Cebu City attended by doctors from Visayas and

This modest offering that Therapharma is making to the children under the care of World Vision is just a seed to start them on the road to a better, fuller life," Dumpit said during the anniversary celebration held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. "These children comprise the next generation. They are the ones who will see us through when we all turn old and gray," he added.

Davila lauded Therapharma's untiative to bring about a brighter future to many of this country's children. Therapharma does not only help patients lower their blood pressure and cholesterol but also many of our children who cannot go to school because of poverty.



JOHN Dumpit (center), general manager of Therapharma, pledges support to World Vision represented by David Liban Jr., marketing and

In this country, we need more companies like Therapharma," she said.

Also during the event, Dumpit resterated Therapharma's commitment to make available quality and affordable medicines under its pharmacoeconomics program. "Our role in Therapharma is to help

public awareness manager Aiso shown is broadcast journal st Karan Davka, a World Vision advo-

bring back the joy in panents' eyes by enabling them to enjoy their precious moments with their loved ones and live normal lives because they get adequate protection from their diseases through quality and affordable medicines," he said. "This is what we call pharmacoeco-

Ellen's Aesthetic Center still going strong after 26 years

HERS IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMILIAR faces in the beauty industry. Hard to be missed are her imposing biliboards scattered along Edsa and in other major thoroughfares all over the country. This woman epitomizes youthful beauty. And she's none other than Ellen Lising, president and chief executive officer of Ellen's Aesthetic chain of beauty cen-

At the age of 53, she has aged gracefully. Her positive demeanor matched with an awesome personality endears this lady to her friends, relatives and customers all

Having been in the business for more than two decades now, Lising has successfully hurdled the rigors and woes of the beauty business. Through the years,

Ellen's Aesthetic Center has become a fixture in the beauty industry as the place to go to for skin problems and other facial

After 26 years, Ellen's Aesthetic Centers have sprouted like mushrooms. Her credibility and expertise speak for themselves for why she has lasted this long. Ellen never fails to update herself about the latest innovations on beauty and fashion. She attends conventions, conferences and skin care semmars abroad to keep her abreast with the current trends in the internation-

People from all walks of life have loved Ellen's expertise, from celebrities to politicians, beauty queens, office workers, and even students. In fact, most of the country's top actors and actresses have tried

Ellen Lising's magic touch, and they are all satisfied with the outcome. They have become Ellen's regular customers and habitués in all its 12 outlets nationwide.

Every year, Ellen's Aesthetic Center introduces different services to its regular clientele, as well as her line of beauty products. To date, Ellen's whitening cream has been the bestselling product in all her 12 centers nationwide. It is the only whitening cream in the market that can miraculously erase dark spots of the body in just seven days. Ellen's other beauty products like facial soaps, toner and motsturizing cream are also selling briskly.

Ellen's Aesthetic Center's services include Skin Care (Elien's basic facial, facial with hard mask, acne facial treatment, Bioptron Pacial, Diamond Laser Pacial

Treatment, baser facial treatment, and warts removal with facial), permanent cosmetics (lips, eyebrow, eyeliner, eyebrow correction, and eyelash curl), whitening treatments (Body Micropeel, White Glow Body Treatment, Vita C Whitening Body Treatment, Underarm Whitening Treatment, Rose Essence Body Treatment, laser hair resnoval, foot whitening treatment, hair depilatory, and body, foot and scalp massage), non-surgical treatments (fillers, botox, bust and bert-lift), and surgical treatments (mesotherapy, turniny tuck, breast aug mentation, breast lift, chemical peel, ear surgery, hair replacement surgery, dermabrasion, eyelid surgery, face lift, facial implants, nose surgery liposuction, and male breast reduction.



ELLEN Lising with actress Elizabeth Oropesa

Ellen's Aesthetic Center has recently opened not just one but two ouders in the bustling city of

For more details and free consultation, call hotline 413-3375 or 413-6357.

BPL PILIPINAS SHELL IN P5.5-B MTL SIGNING

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and BPI Asset Management and Trust Group (BPI AMTG), together with Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp (PSPC) recently held its P5.5-billion 3-Year Medium Term Loan Signing at BPI's Club 1851 in Makati City. The MTL was fully funded by BPI and 8PI AMTG, and arranged by BPI Capital Corp. Leading the signing were (seated, from left) Caesar Collong, PSPC treasury manager; Victor Garcla, BPI vice president; Rodolfo Naguit, PSPC vice president-finance; Aurelio R. Montinola III, BPI president; Edgar Chua,

PSPC chair and president; Adelbert Lagasto, BPI senior vice president and BPI AMTG head; and Ma. Theresa Javier, BPI AMTG vice president, Joining them were (standing, from left) Jocelyn Sta. Ana, BPI Capital vice president; Carlo Nonato, BPI AMTG assistant manager, Pablo Payumo and Rosario Benedicto of BPI legal; Efren Legaspi, PSPC legal counsel; Cristina Natividad, BPI assistant vice president, Denis Sta. Catalina, BPI Capital vice president; and Aarne Dimanilg, BPI Capital assistant vice president.



INTELLICARE IN 'STRAIGHT TALK

Mario M. Silos, Intellicare president (right) was recently interviewed by Cito Beltran, host of ANC's 'Straight Talk' The interview locused on the HMO industry and the leatures and benefits of the intellicare health card, intellicare is celebrating its 10th anniversary with P2 billion health benefits paid and a base of 300,000 members The company has over 7,000 affillated doctors and dentists and 450 accredited hospitals and clinics nationwide, intellicare, one of the top five RMOs in the country, is well known for its personalized, efficient and compassionale service.

New year sale at fashionable Manila's mall

START THE YEAR RIGHT! RUN TO fashionable Manila's favorite shopping haven because Power Plant Mall will be opening its doors to all shopping afferonados with a mailwide sale from Jan. 6 to 8.

Power Plant Mall will treat you to a post Christmas celebration. Enjoy great discounts up to 70 percent off from premium brands of over 100 participating outlets marking down regular prices. Unearth the hip and fabulous this season for affable prices that will surely make your pockets rejoice.

Indulge in fine brands, which will be offered for up to 70 percent discount in establishments such as Anne Klein, Cole Haan,

PCUK, Perragamo, and CMG. Find reasonably priced items from Lacoste, where the abundant selection of apparel, shoe and accessories makes you look casually chic.

Treat yourself to a stunning pair of Nine West shoes or even go crazy over its bag and wallet collection. And then adorn yourself with dazzling jewelnes from Philippe Charriol or with striking accessories Evita Peroni.

And top it all up with fabulous fashions from Iberian brands Mango and Zara, Zara, which has taken Manila by storm and has brought shopping to a whole new level, will surely have Filipinos going gaga over their vast and marvelous collection.

A grand sale to open up the New Year is only offered at the Power Plant Mall. This is simply a must. So rush to fashionable Manila's fawortte mail and set your shopping spirit free.

Investing in real estate

A SIX-TOPIC SERIES of lectures on investing in Real Estate will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate at 1:30 to 6 p.m. on Jan. 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, and 24 at the Maximo Function Room, Second Floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makari City. Invited to attend thess seminars are real estate investors, developers, professionals and property owners.

This lecture series would initiate participants to the ABCs of real estate investing and avoid costly mistakes that were usually suffered by inexperienced investors, thus guiding them to a pleasant and successful real estate business. Numerous issues concerning prospective real estate investor, financiers and developers; owners and realty professionals would be discussed.

The topics can be attended separately

and are all stand alone. This Lecture Series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted resource speaker on land laws; and engineer Enrico Cruz, who has more than 35 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examinations respectively, and was invested as a "Real Estate Feilow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

for other details or advance registration, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or 0915-4269174 or by e-mail at urbanet@pacif-

ic.net.ph.

AMERICAN AND MARKET SECRETARY AS PROPERTY OF ASSESSMENT CLASSIFIEDS

lenuary 5, 2006

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF SALCON POWER CORPORATION:

the discussion of the manufacture of the state of the sections.

Please be advised that KEPCO Philippines Corporation ("Kephilip"), KEPCO Philippines Holdings. Inc. ("Keoco Holdings"), Intropid Holdings, Inc. ("Integrit") and JAD Holdings, Inc. ("Lied") have filed inc. ("Keoco Holdings"). Intropid Holdings, Inc. ("Lied") have filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (The "SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("ESE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in connection with the Buyers' infention to acquire common effects representing at least 43.8 % but no more than 60% of the outstanding capital stock of Selece Power Corporation (the "Corporation") (such injention to acquire the Shares, the Trender Office)

Kephilco, Kepon Holdings, Integrid and Jad tervs obtained commitments from Salcon Holdings Philippines, inc ("SHPT) and ATC Engineering Sdn Bhd ("ATC") for the purchase by Kepco Holdings interpid and Jad (collectively the "Secretar") of an aggregate of 864,935,106 common shares respectively 13.02% of the Shares subject of the Tender Offer) from SHPI and ATC. The Sevent intend that the intrapid and Jed (collectively, the "Li Googy") shall ecquire any Shures that may be tendered by any stackholders offser than SHPI and ATC in response to the Tender Offser.

The Tander Offer shell commence et 9:30 a.m. on January 5, 2008, and end at 3:00 p.m. on February 2006 (the "Render Offer Paried"). The Shares to be landered are intended to be crossed on the PSE on February 15, 2006 (the "Gross Base"). Should any of the business days during the period from January 6, 2006, the commencement of the Tender Offer Period, until February 15, 2006, the Cross Date, be declared a non-working holiday after the date hereof, the Tender Offer Pariod shall be extended and the Cross Date postported, by such number of business days as is equivalent to the number of business days declared non-working holidays after the date harvoil.

The purchase price for the acquisition of the Shares is P 1,614,596,856.00, or P1.80 per share, and will be payable in Philippine Peace. Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer affectied as Armest A to the letter dated January 8, 2006 (the "<u>Offer Letter"</u>) send by the Buyers and Kephilos to the Company's stockholders of record as of Decamber 22, 2005 (the date of the most recent for of stockholders available from the Stock Transfer Agent), all stockholders of the Company may tender all or a portion of their shares for acceptance and purchase by the Buyers within the Tender Offer Period.

The Suyers intent to pay for the tendered and accripted Shares on the Cross Date. Payments for the rendered and accepted Shares shall be made available by ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Paying Agest") in the form of checks made payable to the tendening Stockholder for pick-up by the tendering Stockholders after 3.00 p.m. on the date falling three I3) business days after the Cross Date at the following address 17th Floor Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayata Thangle, Ayata Avenue. Makati City. Any payment not collected from the Paying Agent within thirty (30) calendar days from the payment date released to above shall be dispatiched with registered mail, to the tast recorded address of the landering Stockholder at that Stockholder's risk.

Tendering Stockholden who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Stockholders") should submit, within the Tender Offer Period, their duly endorsed stock certificates and the duly accomplished Application to Tender Sheres (the "Agolization") in the form attached as Annex B to the Offer Letter to ATTH-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depositors") at 17th Floor Tower One & Exchange Plaze, Ayeta Triangle, Ayeta Avenue, Makel City, together with the other documentary requirements specified in the Other Letter.

For the convenience of Scrip Stockholders who are based in Cebu and Daviso or elegishere outside Lizzon, shares of common stock in the Company may be landered by submilling the requirements specified in the Offer Letter to the Cabu and Davao branches of the Depository no later than 3:00 p.m. on January 30, 2006;

Dayao Office:

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc.

No. 7 MT Agrino Building

Cetsi Officer

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. Picom 208

Telephone No. (032) 231 1324

Attention: Me. Chang ... Go

J.P. Cabeguro Avende Cubu Holdings Center, Cubu Businees Park Daveo City Telephone No. (082) 224 2860 Alternitori: Mr. Missuel Luis R. Aquino After 3:00 p.m. on January 30, 2008, Scrip Stockholders who are based outside Luzon may lender

their shares of common slock in the Company only by submitting the loregoing requirements to the Depository's offices in Melcali City. The Depository reserves the right to require tendering Stockholders to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibity and acceptability of the shares of common stock

being landered by those Stockholders. The Depository will submit the share certificates for validation to Metrobank Trust Banking, the

Company's stock transfer agent (the "Stock Transfer Agent") at 17th Fix, GT Town themational 6813 Ayele Arm, corner 4.V. deta Coate St., Makel City. Defective Applications (e.g., any Application with a discrepancy between the spectrum attractures on title and the endorsement on the stock certificates, must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejacted by the Buyers Consequently. Stockholders are strongly urged against tendering their steare at the tast minute to allow all parties sufficient time within which to correct any deficiencies in the Application.

Stockholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective Applications to allow the Dapository to inform them immediately or any delicencies in their Applications.

Tendering Stockholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Northeen Corporation (such Stockholders, "Scordess Stockholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares of common speck in the Compality to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Broker" in accordance with the guidelines attached as Annex F to the Offer Letter for receipt by the Broker pnor to 3:00 p.m. of February 2, 2006. The Broker shall thereafter act as custodian of the Shares until such time that sale and transfer of the Shares to the Buyers is completed or the landered Shares are withdrawn in accordance with the Terms of the Tender Offer attached as Americ A to the

Tendering Stockholders may withdraw any Shares tendered any time before the and of the Tender Offer Period. For a willtdrawel to be effective, written notice of will drawn must be received by the Depository (for Scrip Stockholders) or by the Broker (for Scripless Stockholders) no later than 3:00 p.m of February 2 2006. Withdrawn Shares shell be returned in the same form they were received to the withdrawing Stockholder's booker (for scripless Shares) or to the withdrawing Stockholder (for certificated Shares) within three (3) trading days from the end of the Trader Otter Period. Any and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the return of the withdrawn Shares shall be borne by the Stockholder malding the withdrawal.

Copies of the SEC Form 18-1 filled with the SEC and the tender offer application (ct may be obtained Copies of the SEC Form 18-7 main were the SEC and we state of their addresses indicated above, and from the by Stockholders from the Company and the Brotiar at their addresses indicated above, and from the Public Information and Assutance Center of the Philippina Stock Exchange at GIF PSE Center Exchange Road, Orliges Center, Pasig City, Copies of this letter, along with the Application and the atlachments will be sent to the Company's stockholders of record as of December 23, 2005 (the date of the most recent available list from the Stock Transfer Agent) by registered mail

Thenic you and beek regards. KEPCO Philippinus Corporation

PD1-Jun. 6, 7 & 8, 2004)

KEPCO Philippines Holdings, Inc. morela

Intrapid Holdings, Iso. JAD Holdings, inc. Name: Dennis T. Villares

EX PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS

CIP COMPLEX, SERONG CEMERA BLYD. MORTH RECLAMATION AREA. CERU CITY, PHELIPPHIE TEL NO. (222) 232-3401 TO 04, FAX NO. (032) 232-1990 riages 8 pperit com website, ever pperit com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office -Visayas, through its Bids and Awards Committee - Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Soard (PCAS) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract Location. **Brief Description** Approved Budget

for the Contract (ABC) : P16,773,366.85 : PPA Corporate Fund Source of Funds

PCAB Registration

Contract Duration

1 unit

Improvement of Guimbal Port Guimbal, Iloilo

: Construction RC Deck

: Two Hundred Thirty Five (235) Calendar Days MEDIUM A "Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering*

Owned/Leased

Required Equipments :

Owned : Bar Bender 2 units Owned **Bar Cutter** 2) 2 units One Bagger Concrete Mixer -Owned 2 units 31 Concrete Vibrator Owned 2 units Owned Boom Truck 1 unit 5) Owned/Leased Diesel Hammer 6) 1 unit Owned/Leased Orop Hammer 7) 1 unit

: Truckmounted Crane

: Welding Machine Owned 1 unit Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at east 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed In the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility

The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the towest calculated bid. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security. Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows

| | BAC Activities | Schedule |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | Receipt from prespective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility | January 20-26, 2006 |
| 2. | Issuance of Eligibility Forms | Jan. 20 - Feb. 2, 2006 |
| 3. | Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | February 9, 2006 |
| | | name of the state |

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visaysa, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Bivd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,100.00 (Inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier, Prospective biddere shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the SAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a nonrefundable amount of P11,000.00 (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnity bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

This publication voids the last publication of the Invitation for Eligibility and to Bid for the above project which had an estimated cost of Pg,399,541 64 published on Dec. 29, 2005

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JAMES J. GANTALAO BAC Chairman

IPOL Jan 6 & 13 2006

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBL CITY, PHILIPPINES

TEL. NO. (032) 2923401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990

e-mail: pdavisayaa@ppavis.com: website: www.ppavis.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office Visuyan, through its Bids and Awards Committee - Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibity and If found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Proposed RC Deck & Causerray, Extension Name of Contract Port of Libertad, Antique Location Construction RC Deck & Couseway Brief Description Approved Budget

P 9,068,483,89 for the Contract ,ABC) PPA Corporale Fund Source of Funds One Hundred Sixty Eight (188) Calendar Days Contract Duration Small B "Ports, Harbor & Ollahore Engineering" PCAS Registration

Required Equipments

14) 1 Juli

One Bagger Concrete Misser - Owned 1) 2 urdis 1 Owned **Bar Culter** Owned Concrete Vibrator 3) 2 units Backhoe Owned/Leased 4) 1 unit Bar Bender Owned s afour 2 **Boom Truck** 1 unit Diesel Hammer Owned/Leased 1 tipli. Owned/Leased Drop Hammer 1 unit : - Owned/Leased Molor Grades 1 unit Owned/Leased 10) 1 unit NounT group Vibratory Road Roller OwnedAlsased 11) 1 unit Owned/Lessed Tructomounted Crane 12) 1 Unit Owned/Lessed Rock Grappie

Welding Machine

Proposed Widening of Passenger (Tourist) Name of Contract Port of Birl. Northern Samer Location

Construction of Causeway Brief Description Approved Budget for the P 7,478,172.83 Contract (ABC) PPA Corporate Fund

Source of Funds One Hundred (100) Calendar Days Contract Duration Small B "Port & Offshore Engineering" PCAS Registration

Required Equipments

Owned 1) 2 (in)ta., One Begger Concrete Mixer + Owned 2 units Concrete Vibrator Owned Welding Machine 3) 1 anit Bar Cutter Owned 4) 1 unit . Plate Compactor Owned 5) 1 unit - Owned/Leased Dump Truck

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a nimitar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fall calleds in the Eligibitity Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The SAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bld

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bids Security Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Cualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the partinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as lollows:

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---------------------|
| Receipt from prospective bidders of Latters | January 12-18, 2005 |
| of Intent (LOI) Including Application for Eligibility | leader and and |
| 2. Issuence of Eligibility Forms | January 12-25 2006 |
| Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | February 1, 2006 |

The SAC will insure to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority. Port District Office – Visayes, CIP Complex, Serging Osmefia Bivd. North Reclamation Area. Coby. City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,100,00 (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority. Port District Office - Visayas Ceshier Prospective bidders shall submit the Efigibility Requirements to the EAC at the sate address. They may also obtain the results of the sligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will liquid Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of \$15,000.00 (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Othor - Visayas

ne Porta Authority, Port District Office - Visayas assumes no iha Phili responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnity bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by (Egd.) JAMES J. GANTALAO **RAC Charmag**

(POI ~ Dec 29 2005 A Jan. I. 2005)

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO INSTALL, CONSTRUCT, AND MAINTAIN PROPOSED MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR YEAR 2006 WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2005-251 MC

VISAYAN ELECTRIC COMPANY. INCORPORATED (VECO). Applicant.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice to heraby given of the liting by Visayan Electric Company, incorporated (VECO), on October 3, 2005 of an application for authority to install, construct and maintain proposed major capital projects for the year 2006 with prayer for provisional authority pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9130 (Electric Power Industry Reform Act

The Commission has set the application for hearing or January 20, 2006 at lan o'clock (10:00) in the morning at the u Field Office, Ground Floor, Machay Bidg. Gorordo St., Cebu City.

Attinterested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the seld application should like their comments and or oppositions on or before the date of healing. Such parties who may wish to have me details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intension to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing hey may be turnished with copies of the apprecation by the applicant, which is heraby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Excesse any such party may examine the application and other partner records bled with the Commission during the usual office hours

WITNESS, the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBAND, JR. Charman, and the Honorable Commenteness OLIVER B. BUTALID. JESUS N. ALCORDO. RAUF A. TAN and ALEZANDRO Z, BARIN, this 11" day of November 2005 in Paleg Gry

(8gd.) MARIA YEREBA A. R. CASTAÑEDA Executive Director III

(POL Jun 6, 2006)

This is to inform the public that VALENTING T. ELCANO has been missing for almost 10 years now. Anyone who can give any information about his whereabouts is asked to get in touch with Erasto Elcano at 65 Imperial Street, Cubao, Quezon City.

Republic of the Philippines Province of Surigan del Sur Bislig City

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Republic of the Philippenes, through the Department of Education, her received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to the amount of P1 749 Million under Loan Agreement # P1-P200, towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) dated December 28, 1989. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this toer will be applied to algebra payments for the new construction of school buildings, in view hereof, the Government of the Philippines through the DepEd-SECIP with the participation of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of the City of Blang as implemented, hereinafter called the Agency. wishes to receive but a for the new construction of an SSP Package at Tabon M. Estreta MHS located at Berangay Tabors, Bestig Dity

Two Storey Four (4) Classroom Building with Guidance Room and Tollete Two Storey Science Lebonstory with Industrial Arts Building

Disbursament of the OOA topo by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under .RIC COA , came. No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only pert of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Agency will take appropriate measures for theirce. JBIC ODA requires that bioders and contractors, as well as DepEd-SEDIP under contract. funded with JBIC ODA. coans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of whice during the procurement and

execution of such contracts, in pursuance of this policy, JBIC With reject a proposal for enerth if it determines that the bidder recommended for search has origaged in Corrupt or Fraudulant practices in competing for the contract in question: Will recognize a contractor on inabglish. for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract

funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or translutent practices in competing for, or in executing, arother contract interced by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA. Bidding to open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Soard (PCAB) – registered contractor or joint vanture contractors, with PCAB License at least Madeum B Classification on Building, Prospective

The achedule of activities for the above Saled projects is indicated being Application and leauence of Eligibility Forms - January 2, 2006 up to 5:00 PM of (Upon payment of a non-miuridable les of P200.001

duly accomplished Application of Eligibility Incurred of Bid Documents

Bubmission of Letter of Injent and

(Upon payment of non-refundable les of P 5.000,001 Pre-Bid Conference

[POI - Duc. 30, 2905 & Jun. 11, 2008]

Buildens/Contractors shall must the minimum quaktying criteris of times (3) years construction experience. January 16, 2006 at the BAC Secretarial Office, CPDO, City Half Blobg City

> City Hall Bislig City Jenuary 18-27, 2006 up to 5:00 PM el the BAC Secretarial Office, CPDO,

Opening of Bids

 Up to 5:00 PM of January 20, 2006 ml the BAC Secretaries Office, CPDO.

City Hall Stellig City

January 50, 2006, at the Conference

Room of the City Engineering Office, City Hati Sisting City February 10, 2008 at the Conference

Progra of the City Engineering

Office, City Half Build City All perfections relative to eligibility. bidding, evaluation of Bids. Award of Contract and enforcement hereof chait be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR-A) of RA 9164 otherwise funders. es ine Government Procurement Reform Act."

The BAC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility, or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract if among, others, there is evidence of collecton, including any act which resincts, suppresses or delease composition, were any required formular therein, and to make an award to the tadder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

The BAC also assumes no obligation whatspaver to compareste or indentally the bidder(s) for any expenses of loss that they may incur in the proparation of the brits, or may obtique or to inform the attacted bidder(a) on the ground(a) of BAC action, not does it guarantee that an award will be made. All continuities should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

Bids and Awards Committee (SAC) Bissing City, Sungao del Gut

(Sgd.) REYDANDE D. AZUCENA



PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

PDIC Extension Office, SSS Building, V.A. Rufino St. corner Ayala Avenue, Mekati City Terephone Number 841-4925, Fax Number 841-4927 Website: www.pdic.gov.ph Email: bacascretariat@pdlc.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PD.C) unites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply, delivery and installation of any or all of the tollowing iT hardware:

| Procurement Project Code | Quantity | Hardware | Approved Budget In Philippine Pesos | Cost of Bid documents |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Project Gods | 114 | Notebook Computers | PhP 13,680,000.00 | PhP 1,400.00 |
| 8 | 13 | File Servers | 9,100,000 00 | 1,000.00 |
| - c | 10 | Network Switch | 600,000.00 | 500.00 |
| <u> </u> | 1 | Back-up System | 500.000.00 | 500.00 |
| L | 100 | UPS | 700,000.00 | 500.00 |
| I | 25 | Network Laser Printers | 1 705,000.00 | 500.00 |
| - G | B - | Portable Laser Printer | 270 000.00 | 500.00 |
| - 4 | 2 | Lime Printers (1200 lpm) | 832,600.00 | 500.00 |
| 7 | 2 | Line Printers (1000 lpm) | 1,431 750 00 | 500.00 |
| | 5 | High Speed Impact Printers | 1,115,500.00 | 500 00 |
| | | (500 ipm) | PhP 29,934,850.00 | PhP 6,400.00 |

The Instruction to Bidders and the Fact Sheets shall be made available to interested bidders starting January 3, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat, PDIC Extension Office, 9th Floor SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City after payment of a non-refundable amount as specified in the table above. Bidders who intend to bid for more than one procurement project shall pay the aggregate cost of bid documents for all procurement projects to be bid.

The pre-bid conference shall be held on January 13, 2006, 10:30 A.M. at PDIC Extension Office, Board Room, 6th Floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue comer V.A. Rufino St., Makati City.

Deadline for the submission and opening of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on or before 9:00 A.M., January 27, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue comer V.A. Rufino Street, Makati

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations. PD:C reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any

informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government. PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidders' participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PD)-Juneary 6, 2006)

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY

9 0970425 (Direct)

8 0970425 (Direct)

9 09704

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biblie, not more than 30 years old, mast have a degree in Computer Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering of computer related sources. Praisrably with extreme knowledge in thromotopic fractivology & Solutions Highly analytical, learn feader & player. **GRAPHIC ARTIST** Mate or Female, not more then 30 years old, carolidate must possess at least a Bochsjor's Degree in Art & Design Advertising/Sedits or equivalent, Highly creative, resoccetation.

and with experience in creating marketing meterials such as Print Ads, POPs, posters, etc. Al least 2 years working

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Quezon City

AGENCY

Position 16 Salary Grade Central Office Place of Assignment LRAS-ATY 1-7 Item Number

Experience & Training Position Salary Grade

No. of Vacancies

Place of Assignment Item Number No. of Vacancies Qualification Standards Experience & Training

: LAND REGISTRIATION AUTHORITY : Attorney I

Central Office

Qualification Standards Bachelor of Laws None Required : Attorney II 18

> LRAB-ATY2-8 Sachelor of Laws None Required



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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the FELICIDAD YABERNERO who died on October 2, 1985 was autrojudicially sellied in accordance with the oxfrajudicial settlement with waiver of rights by the holes duly executed before Notary Pub-Se Consul General Relando Guzman of Winnipeg, Monitoba. Canada per doc WG-483 Series 538 G.R. No.888996; Contai Raul Harnandez, Yancouver, British Columbia, Canada as per Occ 066, Page 118: Book 08; Series at 2005.

> IXVESTMENT **DPPORTUNITIES**

(POI-Jan. 6, 13 & 20, 2006)

Iderheiling Unnegers 09178463228 MTW CONSIGN 0017-5830002

PPONTHER

National Power Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines den mose and

Fuel Hauling Services - Luzon Area/ Various Spare Parts and Lube Oils for NPC-SPUG The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 Intends to apply the sign of (Please see achedule under from no. 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract tisted below. Bitts received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

NPC now invites Bids from aligible Bidders for GOODS listed below. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the data indicated in the bid documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary passified criteria as specified in the hyptementing Fudes and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 2 (84 (IR-A, 9164), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filiptino clitzens/sole proprietorstaps, organizations with at least story percent (80%) hierest or outstanding capital stock belonging to octave of the Philippiness, each to clitzens or organizations of a country the fews or requirement of which provide story before the fews or requirement of which provide story the table or providens to Titledon efficience in the providens of the Titledon efficience in the Titledon eff requisitions of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, parasent to Republic Act 5: 63 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Blos from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section (Lot in Bidding Documents, FB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-quaktication diege in order to theirly determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and tinencial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRE) who was determined as such during the post-qualdication procedure.

interested Bidders may obtain further information from NPC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Address given below from 8:30 Abt to 3:30 PM from Monday to Friday. Issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on January 6, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 m.m. Monday to Friday. No 6td Documents shall be issued on the date of bidding. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a

nometundable fee in the amount listed below. The mathod of payment will be cash, The Bidding Occurrents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. NPC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested perfees on dates listed below at the designated NPC function records. Birds and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address as fisted in the Bid Documents on or before the dates stated below. All Buds must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form as stated in the Bid Documents. Lists Bids shall not be accepted.

But opening shall be on the dates specified henounder at the designated NPC function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

about the more than the art appropriations, better

ITEMS FOR BID.

| Schedule | A Piece of Sidding | Item Description | PR No./ Inquiry No. | ABC (in Petos) | | Bid Price |
|----------|--|--|---|-------------------|---|--------------|
| 2 | gruery 31, 006 0:00 A.M. Auriones Floorn | Hauling Services for SPUG-Luzen Operations - Tables OPP / Rombion DPP / PB108 / PB114 | MMM74131 HO-LOD-05-213 | 10,258,550.00 | P | 3,300.00 |
| II | | Hauling Services Masbate Pler to Sibuyan, Concepcion, Banton, Conquera, San Jose & Ticao DPP | MMMT3994(PB2) HO-LOD-05-190 | 4,965,080.00 | P | 1 100.00 |
| Iþi | | Hauling Services: (Manila Pier to Lobang OPP | PB060104- MAMT3995(PB2) HO-LOD-05-191 | 2,813,500.00 | P | 1 100.00 |
| | January 31, 2006 2.00 P.M. Moriones Room | Air Compressor for Power Barge 11B | \$8051103- MMJP9758(LS8 2/NP/PB) HO-B19-05-085 | 790,000.00 | Р | 550.00 |
| ٧ | | High Pressure Hose, Jack Cylinder Cap, etc. for Power Barge 108 | PB051004- MMAM3515(PB2) HO-PB8-05-045 | 945,508.00 | P | 550.00 |
| γı | | Spare Parts of 6DK32 Daihatsu Engines of Power Barge 108 | PE050908- MMAM3350(PS2) HO-PB8-05-025 | 2,780,000.00 | P | 1,100 00 |
| 1 | February 3, 2006 10.00 A.M. Kañao Room | Spare Parts of 5x260 Kw Perkins Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6) of Cuye DPP | MMVB4138 SL-CUY-05-014 | 3,261,700.00 | Р | 1 100.00 |
| Alti | | Spere Parts of 1 x 448 Kw CKO for Cuyo Olesel Plant | P8060203- MMVE4139 SL-CUY-05-025 | 2,665,200.00 | P | 1,100.00 |
| BC | February 3. 2006 2:00 P.M. Kahao Room | Spare Parts of Dale-Parkina Balabac Diesel Power Plant | PB060203- MMVB4140 SU-BCO-05-016 | 1,056,000.00 | P | 550.00 |
| Х | EMPORTER C MANUALLY | Spare Parts of 2 x 54.4 Kw Onlis Visa Gensels of Unapacan OPP | P8060203- MMVB4141 SL-LIN-05-006 | 585,000.00 | P | 550.00 |
| XI | | Spare Parts of Unit No. 1 (54 Kw Oms Visa Genset) for Agutaya Desail Plant | MMVB4142 SL-ADP-05-011 | | Þ | 550.00 |

Place Time Date 2:00 P M Калао Яроп January 17, 2006 Schedule I - VI January 20, 2006 2:00 P M Pahiyas Room Schedule VII - XV NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annual the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION THE BAC MMSD SECRETARIAT Materials Menagement Departm Malerials Management Services Division Agham Ad cor Quezon Avenue Tel No. 921 6048, 921-3541 Loc, 5599 & 5477

award, without thereby incurring any habitity to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

marrhanes@negocor.gov.ph Fax No. 921-8048 + http://www.nepocor.gov.ph

(90) - January 6 & 13, 2000

(Sgd.) LORENZO 8, MARCELO Charman BAC-MMSD

ामारा श्रे

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> You can email it to lessy@mail.irnat.net.ph or qdydistribution.com.ph

or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for Mr. Mar Manabat or Mr. Jess Yap

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DEATH NOTICE

NORBERTO "BERTING" MACALINO

Peacefully Joined his Creator on January 5, 2006 at the age of 68.

He is survived by his loving wife PINING; children and children-in-IBW LOURDES & JUN, BETH-BETH & ED, DONG-DONG, DENG & ED, and JUNIOR & SHIELA.

His body lies in his residence at No. 127 Aquino St., Ignacio Compound, Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on January 11, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the Eternal Garden, Caloccan City.

be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate; Any identification document (LD.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

and the state of t

Manuel 'Noncy' Buncio & Ruby Arroyo sadly announce the demise of the last patriarch of the Arroyo Buncio Clan of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental:

Señior DON MANUEL **ARROYO BUNCIO**

January 27, 1909 – January 2, 2006

son of the late Señior Don tidefonso Dy Buncio (†) and Bra. Doña Filomena Arreyo Buncio (†) of Bacolod City.

His remains lie in state at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel, Bacolod City. We request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. Interment to be announced later.

> e-mail: nonoybuncio@yahoo.com CP: 0919-5884599

EDITHA FLORES ALMERA

Now peacefully rests in the Grace & Goodness of our Lord on January 2, 2006 at the age of 62.

Her loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will be on January 7, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the celebration of the 9:00 AM Holy Mass.

RENATO HONTIVEROS SOLIDUM

of Ibajay, Aklan

Died in the Grace of Our Lord on January 03, 2006 at the age of 79.

His bereaved children Ma. Theresa, Marilon and Robert; son-in-law Nabil; daughter-in-law Estee and grandchildren Karim, Thamer, Bijan and Rafael Hanz, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. His sisters and brothers were Consoladora S. Bofili (†), Araceli S. Legaspi (†), Tereslta S. Bismar (†), Expedito Solidum II (†), Ramie Solidum.

> His body lies in state at The San Roque Parish Mortuary, San Roque St., Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life

and I will deself in the house of the Lord forever." ANTONIO GONZALES DUMLAC

(Former Director, Bureau of Higher Education, State Counsel Department of Justice & Director Presidential Anti-Graft Commission) Peacefully joined his Creator on January 4, 2006 at the age of 73.

His loving wife Amelia A. Hernandez; only son Adolfo "Butch"; daughter-in-law Greta Agnar; granddaughters Mariel and Amelou; brother Freddle and sisters Nannie Felipe and Rose Dumlao; uncles Cecilio and Vicente; cousins, nephews and nieces; relatives and in-laws request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his sout,

His remains lie in state at Chapel A-1, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on January 10, 2006 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS



Bungko Sentral ng Pilipinas

3 TO MUNICIPAL SAMPLER &

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bengke Sentral ng Phisings (BSP), through its 84th and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/menulacturers/delicibulers to apply for elegibility and to bid for the harmonder

| Name of Project/Entri Coscription | 1 | One job - Furnishing of meletals. Isber fools sculpment and supervision for the complete installation of one (1) unit new Year-Cooled Chiller at Security Plant Complex located at East Avenus. Dillman, Quezon City, in accordance with BSP scope of work, Equipment Schadule. Drawings and Technical Spacifications. |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Approved Budgel for the Contract | | P16,940,000 00 |
| Contract Duration | | Within two hundred twenty four (224) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract |

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the lest five (5) years with an amount of at least 60% of the Approved Sudget for the Contract. The Engibility Choos/Screening as well as the Pretimenry Examination of Bids shall use non-discretering passing? criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. conducted.

All particulars rotative to Eligibility Statement and Screening Bid Security. Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference(s) Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Conference and be governed by the pertinent provisions of P.A. \$184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRA)

The complete achedule of activities is Raise, as follows:

(PC4 Jan 8, 2006)

| Activities | Rohedule |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | 4-17 Jany pry 2068 |
| 2. Pre-old Conference | 27 January 2008, 2:00 PM |
| 3. Opening of Bros | 14 February 2008, 2:00 PM |
| 4 Bid Evaluation | These shall be in accordance with the prescribed |
| 5. Post-qualification | I parkets allowed in the implementing Rules & |
| 6. Notice of Award |) Regulations (IRR)-A of PLA, No. 9184 dated |
| B. (NOILLE DI PANEIO | to January 2003 |
| | MASSAUTHER & INSTRUMENT AND ANTICOME STATE OF THE STATE O |

Bid Documents we be evallable only to prospective biddens upon payment of a non-refunde amount of P8,500.00 to the BSP Capitles.

The BSP sesumes no responsibility wheleograp to compensate or indomnity bidders for any nges incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a feature, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into his a rosult of this invitation. (Bgd.) JUAN DE ZURIGA, JR.

HOUSE OF MEPRESENTATIVES

08-189-001 emetal and Housekneoing Services for the Main and FLV Mitra Busing for CY 2006 House of Representatives, Ouezon City

Standard Form Number SF-GOOD-05 July 28 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO HID The House of Representatives, through its Brds and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers:

| Wear Address the residence and outside to about the subject A subject and the state of the state | |
|--|---|
| Hame of Project | Janktonial and Housekeeping Services for the Mein and R. V. Mitra Building for CY2006 |
| Location | House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City |
| Brist Description | Provision of Jacobonal and Housekeeping Seances for various Congressments offices and various Secretarial offices located at the Main Building and R.V. Mura Building |
| Approved Budget for the Contrac. | |

As specified in the contract Delivery Period Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an Prospective tributes another was expendent and building and have key personner and occupations (evened, amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bedding, and have key personner and occupations (evened, amount of at least 50% of the project for bedding the first and a well as a more flatteness invalidable for the project for a project. The Engineery Chartest project and a well as a more flatteness of the second flatteness and flatteness of the second flatten as the Preferency Examination of Bos shall use non-decreeonary "passets of the art calculated by a has be conducted.

All particulates retailine to Englishing Statement and Screening, Skid Security, Performance Security. Per-Bidging Conference, Evaluation of Buds, Post-Countrication and Award of Contract shall be governed by the perform The complete schedule of activities is ficted, as follows.

| Activities | Bo |
|---|---------------------|
| Issuence of Bio Documents | Jan. 6 Jan. 17 2006 |
| 2. Pre-bis Conference | January 23, 2008 |
| Butmisson of Eightilly Requirements, Technical and Fingingal Proposals/Opening of Eightidy, Technical and Pingingal Envirops. | Find tually 9, 2006 |
| TO BASE | February 9, 2006 |
| 6. Post-quadication | February 16, 2006 |
| A Notice of Award | March 9, 2006 |

Bid Occurrents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-retrustable amount of Three Thousand Perce Only (P1,000.00) to the House of Representatives Cashier before 3:00 P.M. (Monday to Thursday only).

The complete set of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents may be obtained at the (Sids and Awards The combine set of ESgibthy Requirements and Bid Decuments may be obtained at the (Bids and Awards Committee Societies). Office of the Procurement and Supply Menagoment Service, South Wing Estatistics, John Upmnador M. Germose, BAC-Secretarial Need (Ter Not., 931-5663 & 631-500) for 7523 & 7059; Engisticy columnate, technical and financial proposals shaft be placed in separate and marked septed envelopes advised to Aty. Leonardo B. Pauna M. Bids and Awards Committee Chairman, c/o the SAC-Secretarial and dioposed in the bid box located at the Contenence Room, Deputy Secretary General for Informational Audit, South Wing Basement, House of Representatives, National Government Comp. Constitution Hits, Cuezon City. Deadline of autimisation and receipt of seated bide shall be on Thursday, February 8, 2006 of 2-200 P.M.

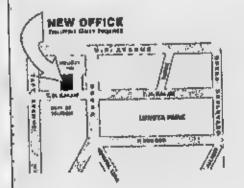
The House of Representatives assumes no responsibility witalisonver to compensate or indexwify biddess for any expenses incurred to the preparation of the titl.

[PDI - January 8 & 13, 2900]

Approved by:
(Sqd) ATTY LEONARDO B, PALICTE III
28ds and Awards Commune Charmes

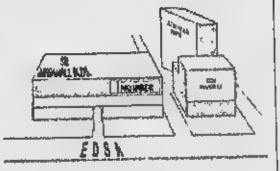
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SM MEGAMALL STHLEVEL BLDG B, EDBA TEL NO. 838-0319/837-2008 Contact Parsons 109, Attroid, Randy & Arnel

NOTICE

This is to inform the public that Esperanza S. Mariano, Sales Operations Assistant, Laoag District Office, Loyola Plans Consolidated, Inc. has retired from her services since April 5, 2005. Two (2) official receipts of the company under her custody (Nos. C-001198927 and C-001198828) are unaccounted. All Claims arising out of this Issue of said OR's are to be paid / settled by Esperanza S. Mariano in form of sald documents.

(PD)-040, 24, 30, 2005, & Jan. 6, 2006)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon Cltv

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In consonance with R.A. 8976 otherwise known as the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000, the National Food Authority (NFA) as the implementing agency on Iron fortifled rice, wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on January 24, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bidg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City among all interested suppliers for the supply of THREE HUNDRED METRIC TONS (300 MT), MAXIMUM IRON COATED RICE PREMIX with an approved budget of Php 89.6 M, packed in twenty five (25) kg capacity multiwall paper bag or its equivalent. Detailed product specifications and packaging shall be included in the Terms of Reference (TOR) Delivery period at designated NFA Manila warehouse/s shall be one hundred twenty days (120) upon the receipt of the Notice of Proceed.

All interested suppliers are required to aubmit price offers to Philippine Currency, (inclusive of all taxes) as specified in the NFA Bld Form

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the approved budget of Php 69.6 in the form of Cash, Cashier's and/or Manager's Check or an irrevocable L/C issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila.

List of Eligibility Requirements and instruction to Bidders may be secured thru MR. TOMAS R ESCAREZ, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Manager Department for Marketing Operations, 5th Fir., NFA Matlmyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City. Telephone Nos. 712-1564, 743-8596 or 712-3341 Loc. 8513 starting January 02, 2006

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and Bid Documents will likewise be available starting January 02, 2008 up to January 10, 2006 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) upon payment of a Php 15,000,00 non-refundable

The Pre-Bidding conference will be held on January 10, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Malimyas Bidg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Submission of eligibility requirements, technical proposal and price offers will be between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Malimyas Bidg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on January 24, 2006. Opening of bids will start at exactly 10:00 a.m.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required or detect therein and accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO Deputy Administrator and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI Doc. 30, 2005 & Jan E. 2008)

722-1144 Ω£ 722-1155

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is given that at the meeting of the Board of Directors of MZ LAUNDRY VENTURES, INC. If was RESOLVED that the corporation be dissolved and its affairs wound up, and for that purpose a special meeting of the stockholders will be held on the 15th day of January 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at 41 Carreon Village San Bartolome, Novaliches, Q.C., Philippines to take action on the resolution.

[PDI Dec 30 2005, Jun 6 & 13, 2096]



Citta Malia: The Best of Italian Living



The unique charm of Italy comes alive at Crown Asia's Citta Italia. This 70-hectare Mediterranean inspired community brings cosmopolitan living to rustic Imus, Cavite. Accessible from Alabang via Daang Hari Road and the E. Aguinaldo Highway, Citta Italia's classical facade speaks volumes of its residents, upwardly mobile and particular about exclusivity

A home in Citta Italia sets you apart from the rest, a step up to living in luxury. The distinctive Italian atmosphere is perfectly matched by first class amenities which include a clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, parks & playgrounds, as well as community essentials such as a school, church and strip mall.

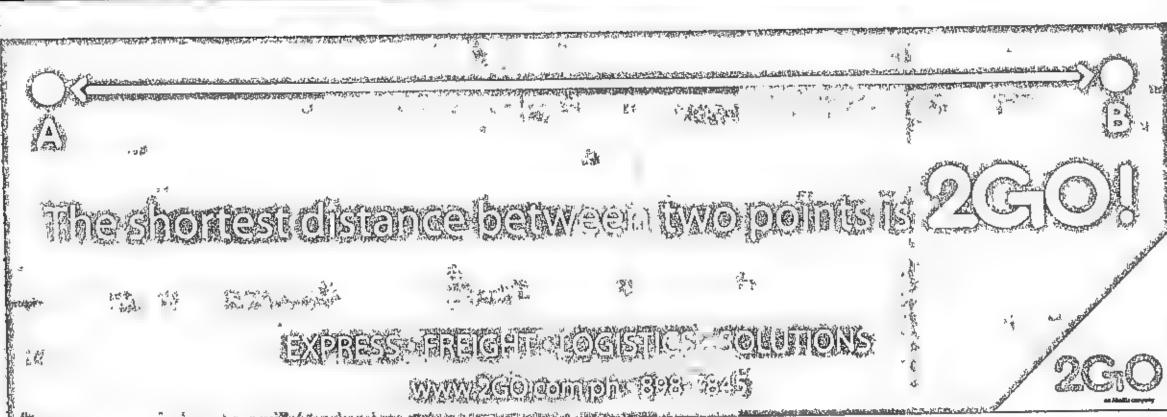
The community is designed to provide the residents with the relaxing Lifestyle that they deserve. Every Citta Italia home is planned and laid out with a discerning eye for quality and details, designed specifically as a comfortable haven for quality living. A stroll around Citta Italia's exquisitely landscaped parks and playgrounds or dips in its beautiful swimming pool are just some of the rewards of living in a meticulously orchestrated community.

Drop by Citta Italia and discover one of Crown Asia's premier communities, a sanctuary for those who seek the best of Italian living.

MAIA ALTA: A Sold Out Success East of Metyo Manila

Just a 45-minute drive from Makati or a 30-minute trip from Ortigas Center is Maia Alta, one of Crown Asia's many success stories. This hillside community, modeled after mountain villages in Italy, combines rustic charm with quick and easy access to the city. Maia Alta is just a few minutes away from top educational facilities in the country such as the UP, Ateneo, Minam Coilege, and UA & P Antipolo is also home to branches of the La Salle and Assumption schools Popular malis quelius Sin. Long. Hoogeweek's and a broowing his a sinur vide from the village. Mara Allu is home to golf lovers as it is surrounded by top golf courses in Antipolo - The Valley Golf and Country Club, East Ridge and Forest Hills

But there's more to Maia Alta than its proximity to schools and commercial areas. Homeowners are rewarded with scenic drives to and from the verdant hills of Antipolo, with spectacular views of the city Maia Alta homes are specifically designed to make full use of the mountain environment, homes feature a lanai for better ventilation and light, more family areas and more efficient use of space, ail wrapped up m classic Italian design and architecture. Amenities include a clubhouse with swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, parks and playgrounds.





known for his elegant evening clothes, Boutaque Square designer Efren Ocampo romanticism as the next big thing fashion.

chiffon skirt

"Lace will be hot," he says, adding that he sees Victorian touches in his clothes for the coming year.

Ocampo's clothes are so soft they almost float. He uses chiffon in exquisite draped dresses for evening and ruffled tops for daywear. Other dainty details like pleats and tucks complement the luxtiry of lace.

While ivory and cream are in the news, Ocampo picks a palette of dusty pink and young olive green to apdate the look.

The new romantic fashion can be worn in either dressed up or dressed down mode.

"You can wear the top with a matching chiffon skirt for a formai event, with a pencil skirt to update the corporate look, or with jeans for casual wear," says Ocampo. "Suddenly, it's hip to be romantic."

The Efren Ocampo collection is available at the Boutique Square department of all SM stores.

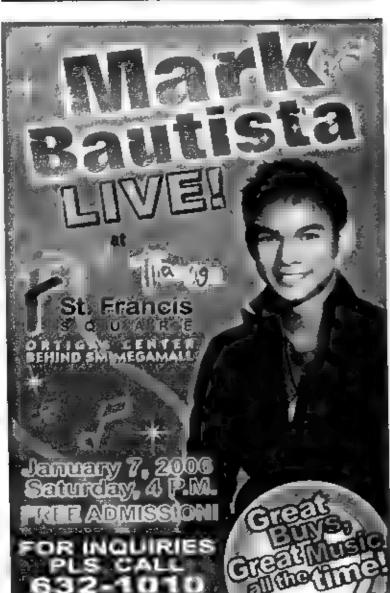


DUSTY-PINK strappy pleated gown in iridescent and chiffon materials



Websilot www.weighlessconter.ket; & mail: weighlesscontereyahoe.com

ruffle accents over denums





Islander

olive-green tube dress with pink foral lace and ruffie accents

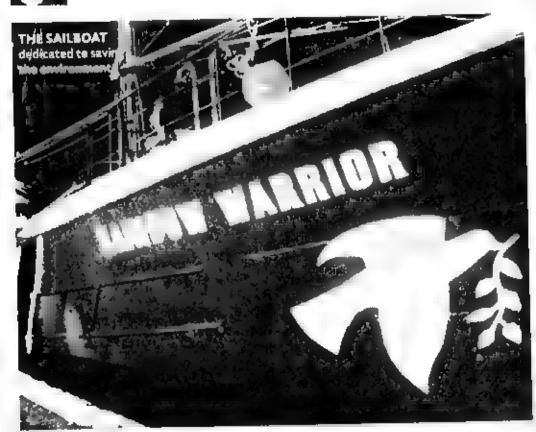
SM Valenzuela

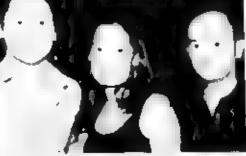
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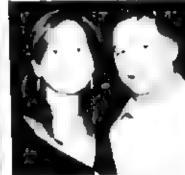
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LIFESTYLE





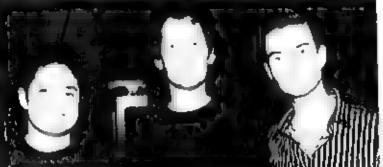
TATLER'S Anton San Diego, Manille's Greenpeace working woman, Hong Kongbased Patricia Liang, and Pepper Techankee



CONCERNED couple. Carls Rayes T. and husband Al Tengco



RED Contantino, representative of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, and die-hard volunteer Mark Dis



PERTY Montinola, Greenpasce's Sven Yeske and Jarlath Lynch



MANNY del Rosario and moi watch the awesome works of Greenpeace volunteers on

Hobnobbing with the green crusaders



ALA Paredes and Nino Avenido drink to an environmentally healthy world.

SOUTHERN gai Athena Ronquilio and young

Argentinian captain of the Rainbow Warrior

BEAUTIFUL couple Jason and Virginia Lane

and Madame Ambassador Delia Albert

SHANGRI-LA'S Tom Zita, Ambassador

Danielle Rizzotti



global warming Weil, climate change can be stopped only if we begin the massive shift away from fossii fuels and toward renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, which several concerned countries are already using, and believe me, palanggas, it is a shift that must begin not tomorrow, but today!

THAT FAB CRUSADER FOR THE

The flagship and most famous campaign vessel of Greenpeace—the Rambow Warrior-sailed to our shores to bring the urgent message and to urge governments in the region to take action against pollution that causes climate change

This was Rambow Warriors' third trip here, in-what-was called "the Asia-Pacific Energy Revolation Tour," which began in Australia, then sailed to Hong Kong, the Philippines and That

WITHOUT

AN EYELASH

Maurice

World-class architect and interior designer Antonio Mendoza hosted a small, intimate gathering so that we BATTING could join Greenpeace on board the Rambow Warnor for us to learn more about the work of environmental group and the effects of ch- Arcache mate change now and in the

Photos by Alex Van Hagen future using Kodak EasyShare Setting foot on board were the early birds, Shangri-La Hotel's popular GM Jarlath Lynch and communication officer Joy Wassmer They were followed by super concerned individuals

la, Caria and Al Tengco, Pepper Techankee and Tatler's Anton San Diego The Greenpeace campaigners welcomed us. Cool, brilliant southern ga. Athena Ronquillo. gave us a tour of the ship, together with Mark Dia, Sven Teske, Michael Kessler-all from Greenpeace International-and Von Hernan-

dez and Red Constantino, representing Green-

like Manny del Rosario, Liana Romulo and

brilliant young business whiz, Perty Montino-

peace-Southeast Asia. Aprés the super interesting tour, the simple but superb buffer was served, catered by Cibo After the yummy dinner, Argentinean Captain Danielle Rizzotti welcomed us and introduced us to good-looking Derek Au, the web designer

Derek explained to us the history of Green-



VON Hernandez; architect Anton Mendoza, organizer of the get-together; Greenpeace volunteer Michael Kessler of Germany; and South American Derek Au

peace and their tireless efforts worldwide, while a video showed us the events, actions and end less awesome campaigns which had shaped the "never say-die" Greenpeace efforts, palanggas

Red Constantino then spoke of the hornfying effects climate change might wrought in the Philippines and possible solutions to the crisis. During the open forum, Red C. answered sever-

al questions His answers could be summed up by his cali to action, "All of us, and you as individuals, can definitely heip, by being heard. We only have one home, and its

the world we live in." At 10:30 p.m., the Rambow Warner salled off for Loile to continue its heart-warming crusade, all for the sake of our

earth. Think about it, palanggas Better yet, let's all do something about it, n'est ce pas? (as in di bata?)

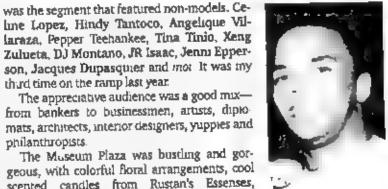
Zulueta, DJ Montano, JR Isaac, Jenni Epperson, Jacques Dupasquier and mot It was my third time on the ramp last year. The appreciative audience was a good mixfrom bankers to businessmen, artists, dipio-

mats, architects, interior designers, yuppies and The Museum Plaza was bustling and gor-

geous, with colorful floral arrangements, cool scented candles from Rustan's Essenses, canapes and desserts from Bizu, complimentary wine from Hardy's, and coffee and ice cream from San M.guei

Topping the whole chic ambiance was the smooth sounds of sax player Vince Lahorra.

But most importantly, palanggas, it was a fabmous charity event; there were several piedges made for the benefit of "Gawad Kalinga" The Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., in fact, takes an active role in the program by running a a micro-finance project.



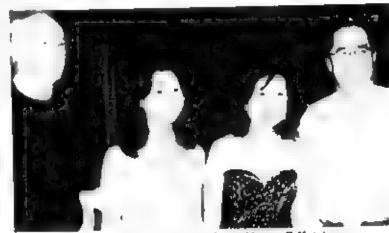
BRAZILIAN volunteer Francisco

Goulbourn show-stopper

A rousing standing ovation for 10 awesome minutes was given to the brilliant mother-anddaughter team of Jean Lim Goulbourn and Katrina Goulbourn Feist, when they took their much-deserved bow at the elbow-to-elbow Ayala Museum during their "Tapestry" show,

As opener, poetry was read by Patidto Efizalde, while Audie Gemora introduced each segment of the show with poetry written by talented Luna Inocian. Exone dances by James LaForteza interspersed the segments. Needless to say, palanggas, Silk Cocoon's fantastic handwoven fabric was the main ingredient that created the fabutous outfits which were complemented by stunning jewelry from Jewelmer, Ar-

nel Papa and Tina Treichler A delightful super surprise for the chi-chi set



TRES charmant French Ambassador Louis Heussaff, Katrina Goulbourn Feist and mother Jean Lim Goulbourn, and business tycoon Gerry Ablaza



HEY, we are models now! Silk Cocoon's brilliant designers Katrina Goulbourn Felst (left), and Jean Lim Goulbourn (second from right) with their "models" for the evening



Monaco honorary consul Fortune



DANCE empress **Backy Garcia**

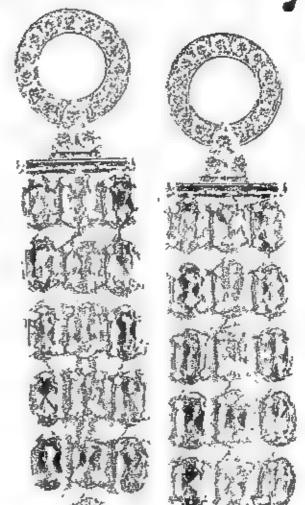


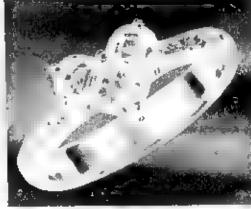
ALL in the famille. Popular ambassador's wives Sylvia Schuff of Argentina, Jill Beckingham of UK and Jo-Lynne Sutherland of Canada



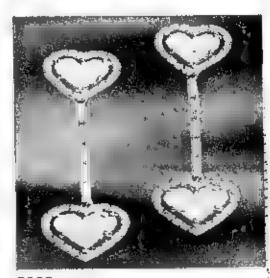
FRANCES Lim with Belgium Ambassador Gregoire Vadarkis and wife Martine V.



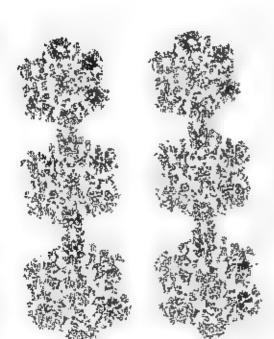




RING



DROP earnings



FLORAL drop earrings

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2006

COLORED stone

bracelet

AFAEL JEWELLERY, ONE OF THE Philippines' renowned jewelers, has come a long way from its humble begamings in 1958. The Florencio family's longstanding tradition of creating intricate jewellery design and manufacture has gained them the respect of fellow jewelers in and out

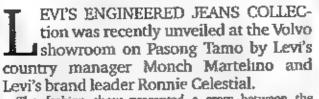
In 2000, Rafael Jewellery was chosen by De Beers as one of four Philippine Jewellers to manufacture pieces for the Philippine Centennial. Headed by GIA Certified Gemologist Rafael Florencio, what began as a single point of sale at the Rafael Jewellery in Shangri-La Plaza Mail soon grew to encompass a network of 10 retail stores in Manila's major shopping

Rafael Jewellery's diamond suppliers are among the limited 100-120 sight holders accredited each year. Sight holders are suppliers that purchase rough diamonds directly from De Beers and cut and polish the diamonds

Rafael Jewellery prides itself on producing collections that are locally designed and manufactured. The collections offer a variety of delicate earrings, pendants, necklaces, bracelets and rings, and the ingenious use of colored stones.

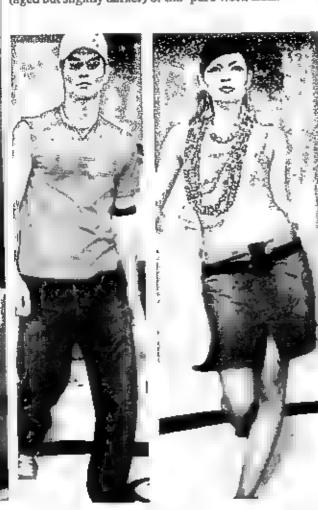
Rafael Jewellery is located at 2/L Shangti-La Plaza Mali (6363399) and at the mezzanine level Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Engineered for hipness



The fashion show presented a cross between the "mod" look of the '60s and the "punk" look of the late '70s and early '80s, to modern hip-hop and electronica beats. Most prominent in the collection was the "running leg" logo signature of the Engineered Jeans collection, which is imprinted on buttons, belt loop rivets and front pocket zippers. Panels of stretch fabric let movement flow easier and more comfortably.

Women and men can choose from three finishes for he jeans: the "pure worn" aged look, "mercury worn" (aged but slightly darker) or the "pure-worn lazer."









Raffle for Audi car on Jan

SHOPPERS HAVE UNTIL JAN. 15 to win a brand-new Audi A4 worth P2.6 region in Power Plant Mali's Christmas Promo

A minimum single purchase of P2:000 at any Power Plant Mail estabushment entitles a shopper to one raffle stub. Rustan's Supermarket shoppers need a minimum singie purchase of P3,000 to get one raffle stub. The raffle is a joint project of the mall and PGA Cars. Call 6981702.

LECTURE Fong Shut writer Lillian Too will, give a lecture 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Jan. 15 at the Westin Philipoine Plaza, Harbor Garden Tent, Pasay City. Tickets are available at the World of Feng Shui Boutique, G/F the Pod um Mail, 18 ADB Avenue, Mandatuyong City. Car

9147888, 9108352, 9160000, 0920-9509390, 0928-4050834 or 0917-9422842.

VOICE DEVELOPMENT COURSE. The Philippine Music Training School (PMTS) will accept enrokess for Voice Development Course (level 1) starting Jan. 11. Classes will begin Jan. 21 PMTS is at 117-A, S. Macaya St. Brgy. Pasong Yamo, Tandang Sora, QC, Call 4540076.

SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) will conduct a practical digital photography seminar Jan. 14 at FPPF Office, Comfoods Bldg., Sen Gil Poyat cor Chino Rocas Avenues Makatt, Call 8137420 or

AUTISM WEEK. The Autism Society Philippines (ASP) marks the 10th National Autism Consciousness Week with the theme "Taas Noo...Argat Autismo." Activities Include a danner show featuring individuals with autism, 6-10 p.m., Jan. 20, The Legend Villas, 60 Ploneer St., Mandaluyong City. Ticket is at P800, Only 150 seats available. A lamily support group meeting will be held 1:30-5 p.m., Jan. 21, at the Autism Society Philippines Office. Room 307 Mt. Building, Kantlas Road, 1102 OC. Carmetta C. Almendrala, who has a masters degree in Special Education and a 37-year-old high-functioning autistic son, will taclinate. Registration is free but only 15 stots are available. Call 9266941/4368713, or e-mail info@autismphils.org or autismphils@pacific.net.ph.

CONFERENCE, Dr. Rita Dunn, educator and developer of the Dunn and Durin Learning Styles model, is among 15 experts from the international Learning Styles Network of St. Johns University who will particlpate in the Arst International Learning Styles Leadership Conterence. "Festival of Minds," Jan. 16-21, at the Baguio Country Club. Baguio City. Call (074)4428877/78 or (074)4469866.

WORKSHOP. The final run of Tapping the Creative Universe Workshop will be held 7-9 p.m., Jan. 26-28 and 30, and Feb. 1 and 3 at 31 M. Jocson St., Loyola Heights, QC. Workshop fee is P5.000. Call 9290230 or 4265375.



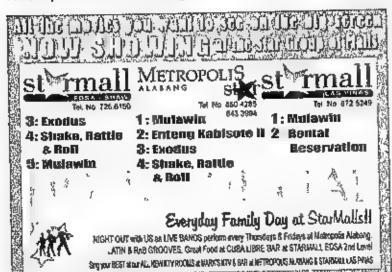
BEST OF PINOY SHOES. Guests of honor Rex Drilon, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Anges Aquino, Marikina Mayor Lourdes Fernando and Mrs. Ortigas cut the ribbon at the taunch of Schuh Center, a showcase for locally made shoes at Greenhills Shopping Center.

LIFESTYLE

Take me out to the carnival



KRIS Aquino in front of the Ranger



THE WORLD'S MOSTBELOVED traveling carnival is coming to the Philippines for the first time. Fresh from its tours of Europe and the Unit-

ed States, the EuroStar Carnival comes to Manila for a imited time on y in a huge 3-ha area at The Fort, Bonifacio Global City,

Grand opening will be at 7 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 7. A spectacular show will mark the launch, including French Cancan dancers, circus acts, a band and a fireworks display.

EuroStar Camival promises a very European flavor, from the gate entrance to the .nterior setting and decoration, music and spe-

EuroStar Carmiva., a spectacular touring carmval famous for its large thrill rides, like the Giant Wheel, Booster, G-Force, F.ipper, Flume Water Ride and Ranger, and family and kiddie rides such as The Nostaigic Horse Carousel, Bumper Car, Mint Pirate and Kidd.e

There will also be game booths offering plenty of attractive plush toy prizes, food courts serving a wide range of carnival snacks, and a merchandise zone seiling souvenus and collect,bles.

The EuroStar Carn.val, brought in by Media Source Entertainment, Inc., will be managed by a team of Europeans who have



KRIS Aguino and James Yap in front of the Carousel

ating carnivals in Europe and USA. One will operate the games stalls, frequently group of Europeans operate the rides ma giving away large plush toys. A team of

years of experience in organizing and oper- chinery and another group of Europeans

trained local staff will undertake the day-to-day operation, all druled by the management company and work to high standard of servicing

The EuroStar Carnival is located at The Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, and is open on Mondays to Thursdays, from 5 pm to 12 midnight; Fridays, from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m ; Saturdays, from 2 pm to 2 a m., and Sundays and ho. days, from 2 p.m to 12 midnight. For ticket inquiries, reservations and group sales, call 7274084



MANILA BROADCASTING

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January 06, 2005

Exodus

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Ako legal Wife

SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

KUTOB



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TERRORIST HUNTER

In Cooperation with:



Kremii-5

















Where the wild things are

... The night Max wore his wolf suit and made his mischief of one kind or another, his mother called him "wild thing!" and Max said, "I'll eat you up!" So he was sent to bed without eating anything.

—Maurice Sendak, author of "Where the Wild Things Are"



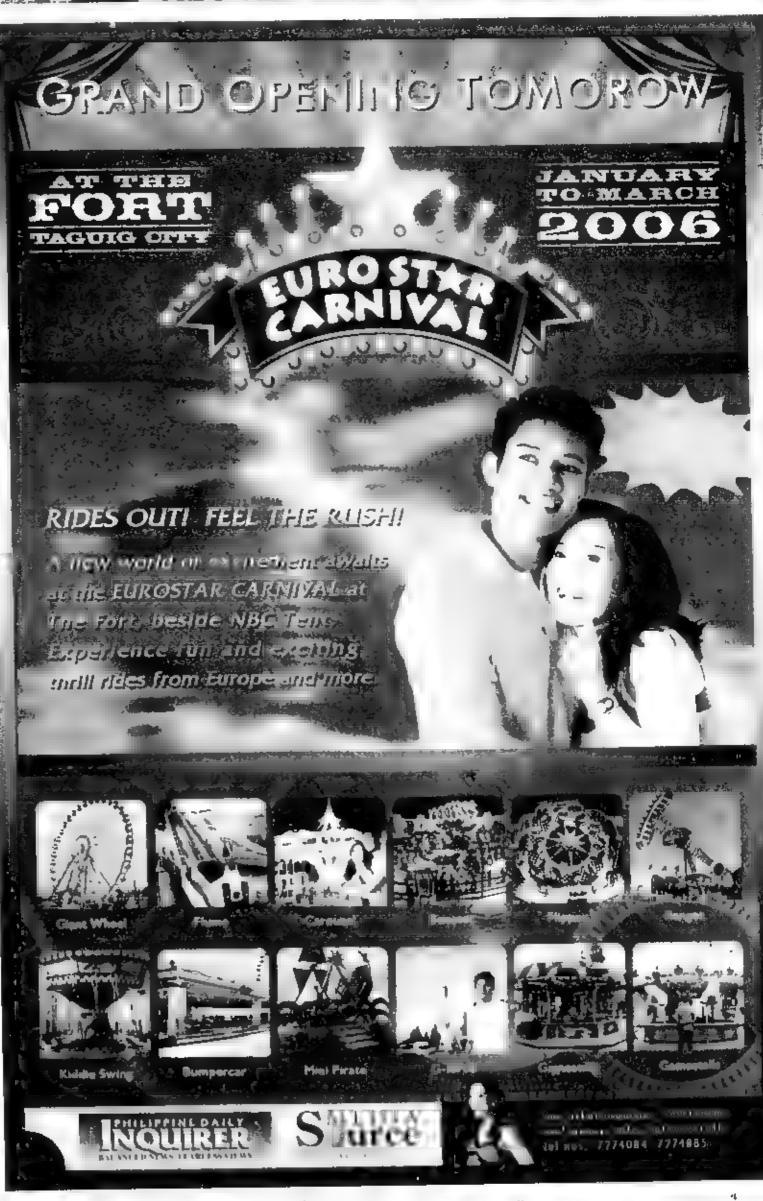
Jenni Epperson

MPISH ROMPS AND juvenile misbehaviors are the real family jewels. The reckless manner and devil may-care attitude of adolescents may spawn the growth of white hair among parents and school principals, but despite the dysfunctional and delinquent demeanor of the young, they can inspire the old, err... I mean, mature.

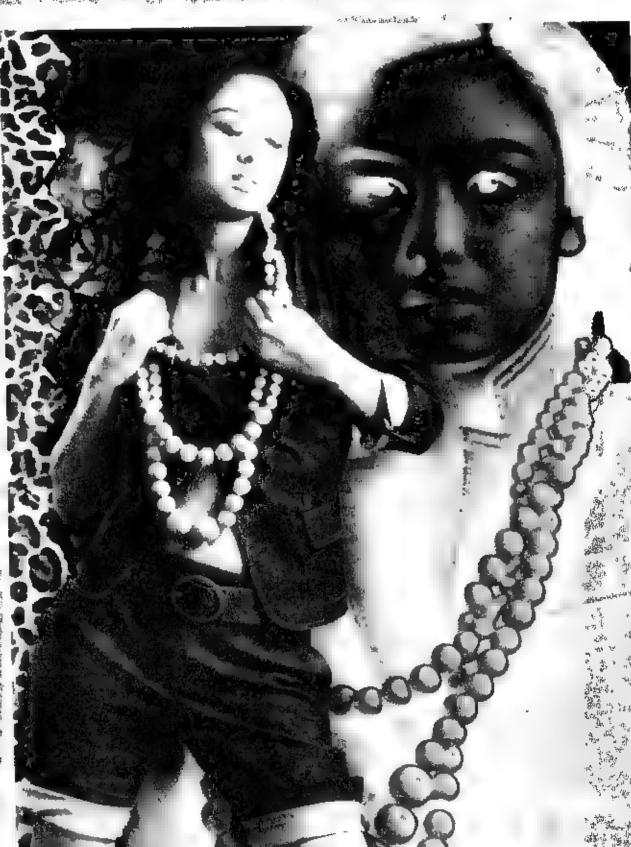
Picture your daughter in hot pants, black turtieneck and fuchsia latex boots dancing at Embassy Club. Or an office newbie wearing her boyfriend's buttoned-down shirt with a wide belt cinched at the waist and white Bermuda shorts. What about the cool colegiala in jeans, a "Teenage Millionaire"



ANIMAL STREAK, White eyelet top, khaki safari shorts







HOT HUNTRESS. Denim blazer and shorts



WILD CARD. White buttery leather coat, coffee floral wallpaper-print tulip skirt Out of the wilderness and into the metropolis, DKNY's Spring/Summer collection ends the hunt for urban jungle gear.

These dress code offenders can make any guardian's, teacher's or boss' blood boil, enough to have them grounded the whole summer, or be the recipient of a harsh office

memo banning the use of tsinelas

Still, the wild, cocky energy and style of these deviant darlings are what many aspire

Jungle variety

Like wild boars to tigers, seals to polar bears, DKNY is to the eternally young fashion huntresses Its designs are young spirited yet professional-looking, fun yet functional.

DKNY's urban jungle appeal has always quenched the style thirst of lady bosses, the type who takes on proteges, leads by example, clocks in the earliest and leaves the office last Just like Donna Karan, who took several protégés under her wing as part of her design team, believing that the young designers would continually recharge and in-

For its summer collection, DKNY's jungle variety of tulip skirts, safari shorts and eyelet spire her. tops are hot! But, sad to say, the voluminous pieces like the skirts are not for pear shaped cuties like me, as they will only add lady lumps (that's how Black Eyed Peas calls the female curves) to the hip The silk dresses, shorts and skinny blazers, though, will surely make up for them.

Max, the king of all wild things

in the classic children's book, "Where the Wild Things Are," Maurice Sendak writes about a young boy named Max who, feeling reckless in his wolf suit, pushes authority to the limit and gets punished for it.

In fashion, it's all about experimenting

with different pieces of clothing and pushing the style envelope Like Max, you may be sent to bed without dinner for your attempts at trying a cut that's a bit edgy. The tulip skirts of rying a cut mars a bit edgy The tunp write of voluminous tops may send you back home changing a couple of times, but the rewards are well worth the bassle. You may discover are well worth the bassle and area better find some exciting new style and, even better, find out what works for your body type.

As the spirited little boy says, "Let the wild

rumpus starti" E-mail the author at ifoshion@inquirer

PHOTOGRAPHY
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OIGITAL IMAGING ARNZ LORENZO (09.7-2006550)
MODEL KELLY MISA MODEL RELY MISA

MAIR AND MAKEUP GELA JALMEL (1917-5217-329)
CLOTHES DKNY, AVAILABLE AT I'LL MOWER PLANT MALL
ROCKWELL CENTER; 1/F. GREENBELT 4, AYALA CENTER, 2/F,
KUSTAN'S TOWER MAKAT, AYALA CENTER

ACCESSORIES STYLIST'S OWN

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IFESTYLE IN THE



Pauline Suaco-Juan Editor in chief Preview magazine 4

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TINTED PALES. Aside from white, tinted pales will be making it big. Colors like thush pink (as seen in Preen), crême caramel (check out Doo.rl), and subtle grays (see Badgley Mischka and Narciso Rodriguez)

SAILOR. This year's military inclination takes a nautical turn. Ladies, stock up on sailor ... stripes. Check out the nurways of Raiph Lauren, Marc Jacobs, and Max Mara for more inspira-

BUFFLES. Forget bows and rosettes, this year ruffles arethe star embellishments. YSL's Stefano Pilati did it best. His ruffled shirts and capes were so

THE DRESS. The dress is here to stay. But instead of fatted and ladylike, the silhozette is flowing and free. Chiffon is the key fabric. Look for crafty details file crochet, macrame and intricate beading, which adds a folksy twist.

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Constitution of the contract o

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- Wedges and platforms
- Flowers

Jappy Gonzalez Pashion buyer,

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Fashion is more sophisticated

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APPLES' Pickings

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Fad hags

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We asked some of local fashion's leading [3S][0] S lights for tips on what's hot for spring/summer 2006. Remember, it helps to be in the know but, as always, everything depends on your personal style.

Read on and take your pick.

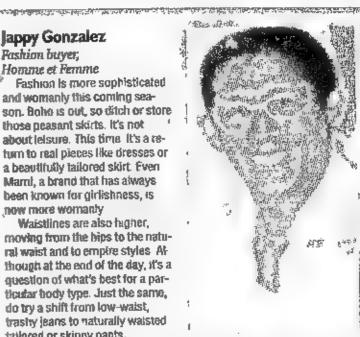
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Brights take a back seat in spring/summer as lilac, the new favored color, with be celebrated by many. Richness will still rule as metallics and big bows show no signs of departing this year.



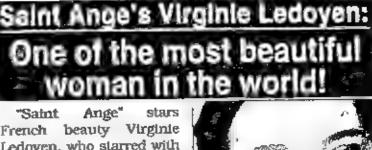
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Virginie was about 15 years old when she realized that acting would be something she wanted to pursue Her big break in the movies was in 1994 when, at the age of 17, she was in the film "Cold Water" in which she played a troubled teen. She was later nominated for the 1995 Césars (French Awards) for "Cold Water"

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"Saint Ange" reveals its dark secrets on January 8.





भारति देशको विकार के विकार के लिए हैं कि विकार के लिए हैं कि विकार के लिए कि कि विकार के लिए कि विकार के लिए के

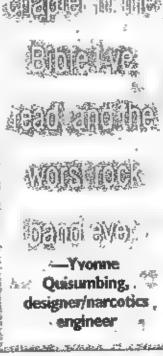
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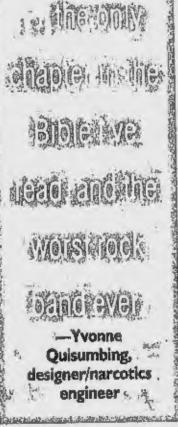
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Saint Ange's Virginie Ledoyen: One of the most beautiful woman in the world!

"Saint Ange" French beauty Virginie Ledoyen, who starred with Leonardo DiCaprio in the movie "The Beach".

Described by co-star Leonardo DiCaprio as "one of the most beautiful world". born. Virginie November 15th, 1976 in Aubervilliers, France, She



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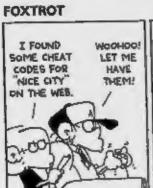


BY JESS ABRERA

BY P.M. JUNIOR

PAGKATAPOS

NG SIESTA KO



PRESS A-8-UP-LEFT-A FOR UNLIMITED MONEY TO GIVE TO CHARITY ...



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DOWN-DOWN-RIGHT-A-II FOR SUPER-GOOD HUGS... AND B-UP-A-RIGHT-B TO ACCESS THE SECRET GLEE-CLUB MISSIONS.



BY BILL AMEND A LIPIN

COMICRelie



MARVIN



BY TOM ARMSTRONG PUGAD BABOY BUBURAHIN KO NA BUTI HSA PO GUMAGAMIT PA SILA OBSOLETE NA YANG TALAGA YUNG VICE MGA AUTO ALARM CITY SA COMPUTER MO NG BARIL EH SYSTEMS, JOBOY. PAG NAGKA-CARJACK ANG USO NGAYON E TUTUKAN KA NA LANG NG BARIL AT AGAMIN MO NAMAN HONG BAGONG GRAND THEFT AUTO - SAN ANDREAS ... PO AND E TIRE NRENCH LANG AND GINAGAMIT ANG KOTSE MO . KD ...

BABY BLUES



CUTE ??



MUTTS

MOOCH,

WHO

CAN'T

YOU



OPEN THIS WARDROBE AND ENTER THE

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO



MIKROKOSMOS

SABI NG NANAY KO.

BAWAL NA RAW AYONG

MAKIPAGLARO SA'YO.

DIVINE COMEDY

BAD INFLUENCE KA RAW KASI E. BAKA RAW

MATUTO PA AKO NG

MGA BISYO PAGLAH KO

ANDNG

BISYO?

OPEN THIS CABINET AND YOU'LL FIND A FLOST AN AFTER-SHAVE LOTION AND A PREGNANCY TEST

HINDE NO! WAG KA

MAY NATIRA PANG

KO ...

MANIWALA PUN! TARA,

DUN TAYO SA AMIN, .

BEER YUNG KUYA

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

HOROSCOPE BY FRANCIS DRAKE

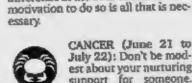
YOU BORN TODAY. You are a person who seeks the truth. You do this in your ordinary, everyday life; you also do it philosophically and spiritually. You want the answers to the mysteries of the universe. You're not unrealistic; you simply explore what others often fail to see. The year ahead is social, fun-loving and supportive of relationships. Expect joy and pleasure!

Birthdate of: Rowan Atkinson, comic actor; Nancy Lopez, golfer, Kahlil Gibran, poet
ARIES (March 21 to GEMINI (May 21 to April 19): You want to help a friend today. Perhaps you want to lend your enorts to

i will trick it

Do whatever you can to help someone in a way that makes you feel fulfilled and worthwhile.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're willing



CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't be modest about your nurturing support for someone. You are a caring person, and this counts for a lot

June 20): This is a won-

derful day to join in any

group effort that brings

efit to others. You

in today's world. (What is more important than kindness?)

want to feel that your life makes a

difference in the lives of others. Your

complishments of others. Your cre-

arive soul will sing!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be sympathetic with co-workers today. If you have an opportunity to help someone, do so. Your caring attitude will be appreciated and perhaps reward-

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Ock.

day a friend or partner can really

benefit from your sympathetic at-

tention.

your

need them.

22): Because you're a people-watcher, you're a natural counselor. Others seek your advice. To-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to

Nov. 21): Your approach

to problems at work is

highly creative today.

You're able to see out-

side of the box. Trust

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22

to Dec. 21): You love

classical knowledge, na-

ture and decency among

others. These qualities

might let you help chil-

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22

to Jan. 19): You under-

stand the need for secu-

rity within the family

dynamic. You appreciate

tradition. Look for op-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to

Peb. 18): Your sign al-

ways wants to make the

world a better place.

Talk to others and net-

dren today. Alternatively, you might

portunities to help family members

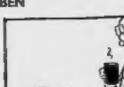
work with people to find out how to do this. Help a sibling if you can.

today. You can make a difference.

use your talents in a creative way!

intuitive solutions—others

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your appreciation of beauty is aroused today. Let yourself enjoy music, art and the ac-BEN



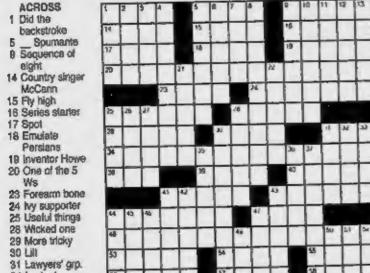




aroused. You feel useful In giving somebody else (perhaps a parent) a hand.

to put somebody else's needs before your own today. Your idealism is

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe

North Woodmere, NY 7 Small pie 8 Vexing things 9 Unfolded 10 In a sedate

manner 11 Court action 12 Video-game pioneer 13 Flat plates

21 Extremist 22 Sequence

valley 58 Actress Campbet 56 Hagar the Horrible's dog 60 Tied

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Gentlemen*

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role 53 Main entery

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1 Did in 2 Desire 3 Munt's meal 4 Girl chosen for a spring testival

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King

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tennis player 26 Sandwich side 27 Lateral part 28 Gary of "Point

Break* 30 Connected home 31 Chan's words

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manager?

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EARLYWORKLATE IANSEINAND ASIAN ELLEN SOO STRIKEOIL EMIRS TAOS LURE SENSE ANNESTAR SAGES

47 Bring dishonor

49 504, to some 50 Yankee or Oriole, briefly 51 Classic Chevy model

52 Song lor &

couple

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're tempted to spend money on something quite luxurious today. If you can afford it, do it. (We all love our precious darlings.)



BA'T NAMAN

KITKIT?





KIKO MACHINE



BAT DI AND MA-PRIORLY BIGLA? PINA-POSAYAAN KO LANG PERO PERO BAT PARANG NATA-TOUCH ACOT AHE! KONIKILIE BA KOT DI KO LANE IMBAMINI SA SARILI KO? ARGH!



NGUNIT SAPMA LANG MATA TALAGANG SINUSUBUKAN AKO NG KAPALARAN. CO, PAGSUBOK... THE LID NA FO MONE

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BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BREAKFAST

NARYOS KO NA ANG BUDGET NATIN' SOSOBRA-WALANG MAPA SA PAGKAIN, JOWA!" KATULAD & NITONG HILLYTO KO FOR LUNCH-PANIS ... HANGGANG BUKAS ITO - SA

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO MAKAKATIPID TAYOS WALANG YAT WALANG HI, /AM 12 HOOR MATITIRA SA JUAN HA PHA! BAKIT TATIN PAG TO PAG NATARADINAN P BARKADA MO.

TULDOK

OF THE DOG?

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Lip-Smach Let your pout do the talking Today, there are a variety of moisturized. If you have dry

ord flags, Thomas and There exist a standard to the energy of the contract and the contract of the

I STILL VIVIDLY REMEMBER the first time I applied lipstick. I was only five. It was my mother's. She had gone out for a ety of ingredients, such as

party and left it on her dresser. When I saw it there, I was so excited. Of course, I ended up looking like z clown because I spread it on half my face. But I felt really pretty and grown up.

At the age of 13, I was at my best Trissa's friend house for my first sleepover, and she told me that if I wanted to have lips that looked natural the

whole day, I should sleep with coats of lipstick on. I followed her advice and woke up with chapped lips.

And in high school, before a class picture, Trissa had snuck in a tube of lipstick, and so she pulled me aside to share her beauty arsenal.

These days, I know women who won't go anywhere without lipstick.

Lipstick is one of the first cosmetics a girl would try on. It has also been around the longest, I would presume. Remember the Egyptians using henna on their lips? At that time, it wasn't the smartest thing to do since it was a reddish purple mercuric plant dye that was potentially poisonous. Talk about the kiss of death!

products made for every lip type. Lipstick contains a vari-

Кноскоит!

Ria Francisco-

Prieto

moisturizers, vitamin E, aloe vera, collagen, amino acids and sunscreen.

The extra components keep lips soft, moist and protected from the elements. The most basic component is the lip balm. Then comes a variety of lippies: frosted, mattes, sheer, stains, gloss, tint, and long-lasting col-

Even the packaging has evolved. We now have tubes, palettes and pots aside from the stick form that we are to buy more shades. so familiar with.

Luscious lips will never go out of fashion. From old Hollywood's Marilyn Monroe to new A-list stars such as Angelina Jolie's, puckered lips are the rage. Shades may vary from person to person, but using just one shade all the time would be a big no-no. The louder the color, the more intense the f-a-b!

Red gives off a womanly appeal; pink is very feminine; and nudes can be sexy if applied with the right eye shadow to complement it.

To make your lippie stay, make sure that before you apply any rint, your lips are well-

lips, you may buff them with the use of a wet soft toothbrush. Then apply balm or lip conditioner.

Line lips with a lip liner that is closest to your tube's shade. It is best to apply lipstick with a brush because it allows you to apply just the right amount, it also allows you to shape your lips well. If you want that extra pout or luster, apply gloss right

Among the newest lippies, I Smashbox's love Troubadour Fairy Lipgloss Set from their White Nights collection, which comes in a white leather flap container that holds three awesome shades plus a lip liner. This is a definite must-try and must-share! The shades are so different from one another that if you have White Nights, you don't need

I also love Lancôme's Juicy Bar celebration set. It contains three best-selling shadesstrawberry, peach and grapefruit-plus one limited-edition shade, which is a sparkly gold.

Looking at this tube reminds me of the disco! It is so fun and sparkly it will definitely enhance that shade you love. It is

Juicy Tubes is Lancôme's best-selling tube. Lancome sells 11 tubes per minute around the world! I am not surprised why.

Now that you are more knowledgeable about lipstick. be on the lookout for what would be best for you!



JUICY Tubes in strawberry

Barbi girl Popular makeup wiz and makeover maven Barbi Chan shares her expert tips and tricks for a gorgeous face all year long

By Giselle Go Contributor

WHEREVER MAKEUP ARTIST Barbi Chan goes, a palpable energy seems to follow her. Chalk this up to her quasi-fame as an ubiquitous name in all the major local glossies, where her brush has done its magic to create flashbulb-ready faces for celebrities like Heart Evangelista, Bea Alonzo and Kristine Hermosa.

Or maybe it's her frenetic, cheeky personality that seems to win over even the most difficult of clients. And hers is a roster that's packed with grateful clients with gorgeous, impeccable makeup. I am fascinated with what makeup

such great pleasure and beauty to women when it's done right."

Barbi has been in the makeup biz for two and a half years, after studying makeup in Los Angeles at Makeup Designory and the Dinair Airbrush Institute. Her first gig was doing makeup at a shoot for Preview magazine, and her schedule hasn't lightened up since.

A slot in her Palm Pilot is highly coveted. As it is, it's already filled to the brim with various appointments for fashion shoots, weddings, advertising jobs, and makeup stints for Maybelline, the US cosmetics brand for which she has become the first-ever Filipina makeup consultant.

Doing makeovers is immensely gratifying for me," she says. "People can be too critical of themselves, so they need someone to help bring out and see the beauty in themselves."

"Makeup can be transformative—and I'm not just talking about its aesthetic value. When people look good, they feel good. I'm thrilled when clients thank me for doing their makeup. It makes me happy to know that I've helped them feel good about themselves."

Here, Chan shares her expert tips and tricks for a gorgeous face

can do," says Chan. "It can give some beauty tricks you can do awake, fresh look. Tweezers are

by yourself at home?

Changing your hair color can give that perfect, extra oomph to your look. I love those shampoos with hair color in their formula. They're fun, low pressure, and best of all, easy to use. It's only temporary so mistakes are easily remedied and it's gentler on the hair than salon color. I would suggest sticking to colors nearest your own. A shade or two lighter can really brighten up the face.

"For makeup, I always encourage experimenting with different colors. There are a lot of inexpensive makeup brands available on the market so you don't need to spend so much. Try having your eyebrows groomed professionally one time, then you can just follow the pattern and tweeze on your own when the hair grows back. Evebrows are important because they frame the face. An easy tool to use is colorless mascara to keep brows in place."

What are five essential items we must have in our makeup

"No. 1 is lipstick or gloss. I wouldn't be caught dead without a hint of color on my lips because this brightens up the face. Plus it can prevent lips from chapping. Another is concealer. This is very If you can't afford a profes- important because it evens out the sional makeover, what are skin tone and can give you a wide-

also a must, because eyebrows should always be perfectly groomed. Also, I never go out without sunblock. The higher the SPP, the better You don't need much makeup if you have good skin, and the best way to take care of your skin is to protect it from the No. 1 cause of aging, the sun. Lastiy, an eyeliner is always good to have in your bag. Whether it's black, brown, or colored, it can make eyes look alive and bigger. It's natural yet noticeable. I don't even wear eye shadow so much because the liner is enough."

What are five products you should try this year?

 Awake Vitamin C Serum, I absolutely love this because it makes the skin glow. Cernor eye cream. I swear by

Maybelline Dream Matte

Mousse. It's so light and sheer, it feels like second skin. Model Co. airbrush moistur-

izer. If you don't like the greasy feeling of regular moisturizers, this is the perfect alternative. Shu Uemura blushers, They

can be a little pricey, but they're definitely worth it. What are five beauty-related

things you should try in 2006? First, get bangs. Ask your stylist to have a variety of lengths cut around your face to make the bangs look softer. This can take

years off your face. Another thing .:/ to try is a tretinoin or glycolic facial. It sloughs off dead skin to make the skin look younger. You can also try perming or straightening your hair (expect to spend a lot on hair treatments though). it's always fun to change and try new looks with your hair. Next on would be to use a tanning lotion. Everybody wants to be white. Why not try tan instead? It looks healthier and sexier! Lastly, try wearing muted, matte lipstick. -2005 was all about gloss and shine. I think 2006 will be just the opposite. Everything is going to be muted and subdued. Beige is a good color for lips, and with minimal shine, it looks more natural."

What's the one difficult thing you face when makeovers?

"People are so afraid of change. They tend to stick to what they've always been doing. But what may have looked fab five years ago may look outdated now. Sometimes it's hard to convince them to cut their hair, trim their eyebrows or try a new color. They're so used to what they believe works for them that a new look or new idea can seem threatening. But you'll be surprised at how a little change can go a long way. Just trying a different shade of lipstick or eye shadow can really make a huge difference."

Going neutral in your makeup doesn't mean you have to look



Stunningly natural

By Barbi Chan Contributor

ATURAL OR NEUTRAL makeup will never go out of style. It is the most fundamental element of any makeup wardrobe, since it goes with anything and won't compete or overpower your jewelty or

But just because neutral is basic doesn't mean you have to look blank and boring. In fact, neutrals allow your face to be seen as it is. While not overly done, you can still look

Byes: I always use sand or chestnut colors. These are my staples. Other colors I like are toffee, tan, ivory, heige, camel, chocolate and sable, Try Bobbi Brown's eye shadows. The brand has a wonderful array of neutral-colored eye shadows.

Blush: Blush doesn't always have to be pink. Neutrals can work just as well. A neutral blush will blend just as well with your skin tone. This is not for sculpting your cheeks but more to give you that healthy look. Try Shu Uemura in Amber, which is very sheer and adapts flawlessly to your skin color.



Lips: What is your natural lip color? If it is on the pinkish side, then use colors that will complement your lips. You want people to think you are not wearing any lipstick. foreal Glam Shine in Sweet Nude is the most natural lipstick I've tried. It just mimics my natural lip

Always remember to keep the coverage of your skin as transparent as possible. Don't put too much foundation. If you want to be holder, add a him of bright color to your eyeliner or lips, then blend well.

MAKEUP BARBI CHAN 09178460738 MODEL DENISE MONTECILLO.



Lifestyle Beauty's December 23 cover model Cristina Garcia will be back in town from Australia on Jan. 16. She has graced the most prestigious magazine covers in the Philippines and is certainly one of the most beautiful product endorsers ever, Welcome back, Cristinal You are truly irreplaceable?



Start the year by saving

MAKEOVER

readers! How broke are you? I am avoiding the malls so as not to spend much. The Cleanse thoroughly thought of my forthcoming credit

card bill with my Christmas purchases still gives me goose bumps. This 911 article will contain useful beauty infor- Kinny mation instead of Salas road-tested prod-

ucts so you do not get the urge to spend for beauty products-at least for this week.

Repair time

The most important time for your skin to repair itself is between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. It is beneficial to be asleep during this time as the skin will cooperate with your beauty products to give maximum results. This is why people who work the night shift look older and more tired than those who get to sleep properly during the night even if both get the right amount of sleep.

The most potent product in your beauty routine is usually the third step. Often, this is called the serum, treatment or essence. It is used after the cleanser and toner; it is applied underneath the moisturizer or sun block.

Peggy Cheng of Clarins shared her beauty secret with us. Cheng said that all one needs are cleanser, toner, moisturizer and eye cream, but she uses as much as seven essences to answer her skin's multiple needs.

I personally use two or three treatments undemeath my moisturizer. I use whitening to even out the skin tone on my face and neck, a firming essence to prevent my skin from sagging and stimulate collagen production, and an antioxidant serum to prevent wrinkles and counteract the ravages of time.

If I have an acne breakout, I use Tretinoin right after my toner then pile up the other essences over it. One should always treat the

My evening moisturizer is usually a firming one or one for whitening. My day moisturizer is always sun block of SPF 30 and up.

By the way, these serums absorb into the skin right away so there is no necessary waiting period when applying one over the other. It takes me a split second between applications.

Soap and water are not sufficient for remov-

APPY NEW YEAR, DEAR ing makeup. I was shocked to find out that a lot of people my age still do this then blame the makeup for giving them bad skin.

I love makeup and put them on as often as I

can but I am also as fanatical about cleansing thoroughly. A lot of these color cosmetics are wax-based and/or highly pigmented and need something emollient (slippery or greasy) to lift them off.

Makeup removers are

often called names with the word "cleansing" before them like cold cream, lotion and my personal favorite, cleansing oil. They all work equally well.

Those with acne or very greasy skin will love the texture of gel cleansers for removing makeup. It lifts everything off without even the temporary greasy feel and leaves your oily skin matte but soft and smooth to the touch. When I was younger, whenever I ran out of a

makeup cleanser, I used body lotion and it worked equally well. Those with sensitive skin should not risk this too often, though, because the formulation on the body does not take into account the gentler skin of the face.

Of course, the cleansing of makeup is just step one. One should follow with the toner to remove extra debris, and then with the treatments, moisturizer and eye cream.

My experience with cold cream, though, is that after wiping it off and rinsing with water, it still leaves this waxy residue. I still felt the need to double-cleanse with a foaming cleanser, then follow with the rest of the rou-

I started using eye cream and moisturizer when I was already in my thirties. Sounds criminal, I know, but my greasy skin broke out with the lightest of moisturizers and I got milia (hard whiteheads) around my eyes when I used eye cream before those years. Moisturizers only came in handy for me when I was abroad in really cold weather.

What I am trying to say is: There are different rules in product usage for everyone. Sometimes when your skin does not feel or show the need for a certain product, you may skip it. The rule applies: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

I purposely did not name any products and show photos for this article so you can make do with what you already have at home and not have the urge to spend extra.

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